



THOUSANDS GATHER TO JOIN HONG KONG TIANANMEN RALLY

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40 SUSPECTED GANG MEMBERS ARRESTED IN HARLEM PROJECTS

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Aruba TODAY

On Top Of The News Email:news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Thursday, June 5, 2014



Sen. Thad Cochran (R-Miss.), center, greets Chip Denman as he tours the farmers market at the town square in Hernando, Miss. Cochran and his Tea Party-backed challenger, state Sen. Chris McDaniel, each got about 49 percent of the vote in Tuesday's Republican primary, setting up a runoff where Cochran's backers fear his opponent's ardent supporters will be more likely to return to the polls.

(Brandon Dill/The New York Times)

Runoff Set for 6-Term Republican Senator

JONATHAN MARTIN

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WASHINGTON - The hard-fought Mississippi Republican Senate primary appears certain to go to a runoff in three weeks, with both the six-term incumbent, Sen. Thad Cochran, and his Tea Party-backed challenger, state Sen. Chris

McDaniel, each garnering less than 50 percent of the vote in the achingly close first round of balloting Tuesday.

With 99.5 percent of the vote counted Wednesday, Cochran and McDaniel each had about 49 percent, with a third candidate pulling in less than 2

percent. McDaniel had a lead of just over 2,000 votes according to the tally compiled by The Associated Press.

But Cochran's campaign claimed overnight that remaining ballots from the Jackson area not yet included in that count had given their candidate a

narrow advantage. Campaign officials said it might take until Thursday for final results, given the need to count absentee votes and sort through contested ballots.

A runoff, scheduled for June 24, would present a serious challenge to Cochran.

The senator's backers have been deeply concerned about such an eventuality, fearing that McDaniel's ardent Tea Party supporters would be more likely to show up at the polls a second time.

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Mourning, tight security on Tiananmen anniversary

GILLIAN WONG

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Yin Min held the ashes of her son and wept, she said, as she marked 25 years since he was killed in the crackdown by Chinese tanks and troops on protests at Tiananmen Square. Outside, guards kept a close eye on her home while

police and paramilitary troops patrolled the vast plaza and surrounding streets in Beijing's heart, stopping vehicles and demanding identification from passers-by. Chinese censors scrubbed domestic blogs and social media websites of comments marking the crackdown. The silence in the mainland

of State John Kerry urged China to release those jailed in connection with the events. "For all people who seek freedom, Tiananmen Square still stirs our conscience," he said in a statement.

Some relatives of the crackdown's victims in Beijing were allowed to pay their respects at cemeter-

minders.

The Chinese government has largely ignored the relatives' demands for an admission of wrongdoing and for a complete, formal accounting of the crackdown and the number of casualties. Beijing's verdict is that the student-led protests aimed to topple the ruling Communist Par-



Tens of thousands of people attend a candlelight vigil at Victoria Park in Hong Kong Wednesday, June 4, 2014 to mark the 25th anniversary of the June 4th Chinese military crackdown on the pro-democracy movement in Beijing.

(AP Photo/Kin Cheung)

police blanketed central Beijing to block any public commemoration of one of the darkest chapters in recent Chinese history.

"How has the world become like this? I don't even have one bit of power. Why must we be controlled so strictly this year?" Yin said in a telephone interview. "I looked at his ashes, I looked at his old things, and I cried bitterly."

China allows no public discussion of the events of June 3-4, 1989, when soldiers backed by tanks and armored personnel carriers fought their way into the heart of Beijing, killing hundreds, possibly thousands, of unarmed protesters and onlookers.

On Wednesday, scores of

about the anniversary of a pivotal event that shocked the world contrasted with boisterous commemorations in Hong Kong.

Large crowds gathered Wednesday night in the city's Victoria Park for an annual candlelight vigil to remember the Tiananmen victims, holding candles aloft that turned the vast area into a sea of flickering light.

Activists laid a wreath at a makeshift memorial as the names and biographical details of people killed in the crackdown were read out. Organizers said more than 180,000 people took part, with many overflowing into the streets around the park's main entrance. Elsewhere, U.S. Secretary

ies — but only with police escorts. Others did so at home under surveillance, expressing frustration at the restrictions placed on their remembrances.

"I told my son this morning, 'Your mother is powerless and helpless, after more than 20 years I don't even have the chance to appeal for support,'" said Yin, whose 19-year-old son, Ye Weihang, was killed in the crackdown. Police have kept a round-the-clock surveillance of her home since April, she said, and the relatives' hopes of gathering and holding a public commemoration were dashed. "You're not only re-opening my scars, you're spreading salt and chili powder into them," Yin said she told her

ty and plunge China into chaos. Protest leaders said they were seeking broader democracy and freedom, along with an end to corruption and favoritism within the party.

Near the square in Beijing, reporters were told to leave following the daily crack-of-dawn flag-raising ceremony and there were no signs of demonstrations or public commemorations. Dozens of dissidents and other critics have already been detained by police, held under house arrest or sent out of the city in what they say is a more restrictive clampdown than usual reflecting the increasingly conservative political atmosphere under President Xi Jinping. □

Official: 1,800 US troops for Afghanistan counterterrorism

LOLITA C. BALDOR

Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — The U.S. military said Wednesday that about 1,800 of the nearly 10,000 U.S. troops the U.S. plans to leave in Afghanistan at the end of the year would be conducting counterterrorism operations, providing that specific breakout for the first time.

The military said other nations may also be willing to provide counterterrorism forces, although no final decisions have been made.

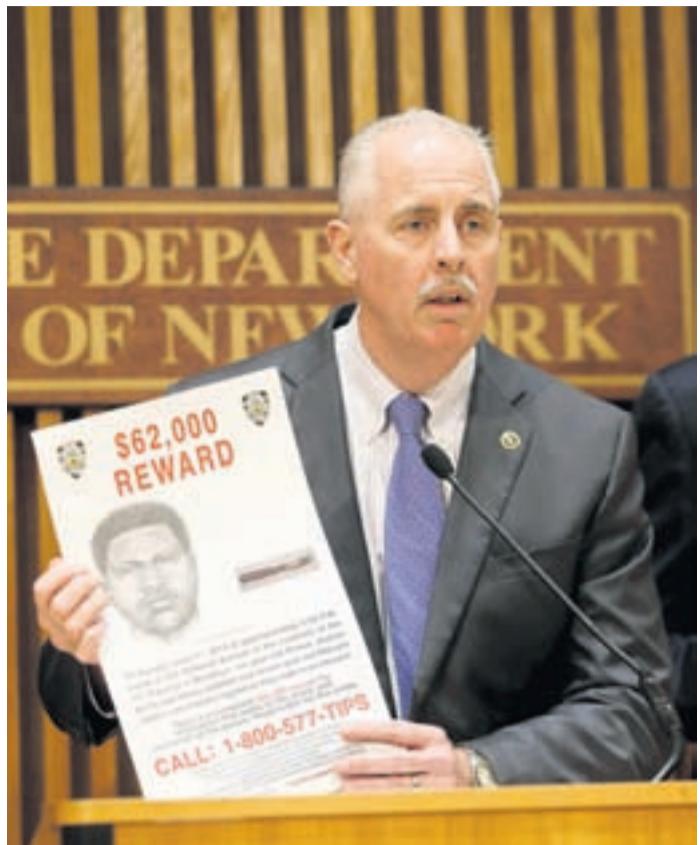
The revelations came as the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan told reporters at a NATO meeting that he believes there will be no problem getting enough allied troops to reach the 12,000-force total that officials believe is needed in Afghanistan to train and assist Afghan forces beyond 2014. "Right now, I don't have any concerns getting to 12,000," said Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford. Of that number, the U.S. would contribute 8,000 to train and assist Afghan forces. Italy, Germany and Turkey have all committed to providing forces to secure parts of the country.

Next year, the U.S. would have troops in the east and south, while the Italians will be largely in the west, the Germans in the north and the Turks in Kabul.

Asked for an assessment of the Taliban, Dunford told reporters that he believes there is friction within the insurgency.

The U.S. and NATO combat mission in Afghanistan will come to a close at the end of this year. NATO defense ministers meeting this week discussed which countries would continue to provide forces into 2015 and beyond. The U.S. has said it will leave 9,800 forces at the end of this year, cut that number about in half by the end of 2015 and have just a small force, in the hundreds, there after 2016. □

Police identify suspect in boy's elevator stabbing



Police Chief of Detectives Robert Boyce speaks during a news conference Wednesday, June 4, 2014, in New York. The New York Police Department has identified a suspect in a knife attack that left a 6-year-old boy dead and a 7-year-old girl critically injured in a public housing building that didn't have security cameras.

(AP Photo/Frank Franklin II)

JAKE PEARSON

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Police on Wednesday identified a man wanted in connection with a knife attack that left a 6-year-old boy dead and a 7-year-old girl critically injured in a public housing building that didn't have security cameras.

They said they were looking for 27-year-old Daniel St. Hubert, who has nine arrests on his criminal record and is on parole.

Police Commissioner William Bratton appealed for the public's help in catching St. Hubert.

"We need your assistance to apprehend this individual as soon as possible," he said.

Chief of Detectives Robert Boyce said forensic evidence led to the identification of St. Hubert, who he said may have shaved his head to alter his appear-

ance.

Before the Sunday evening attack, Prince Joshua Avitto and his friend Mikayla Capers had been playing outside the Boulevard Houses under adult supervision. Relatives and witnesses said they went inside alone when they were cornered by a heavy-set man in his 20s. The man used a steak knife to stab each child multiple times, police said. He fled on foot, leaving the knife outside the building, they said. Prince was found in the elevator, Mikayla just outside the building. Chicago Bulls power forward Taj Gibson says Prince was his cousin. Police said they were investigating whether the attacker may have fatally stabbed an 18-year-old woman days earlier a few blocks away. A similar knife was recovered at the scene of that slaying.

The knife attack cast a spotlight on the issue of surveillance cameras because none was in place to capture any images of the attacker despite funds set aside by the New York City Housing Authority to pay for them.

About 58 percent of the 334 city housing developments, encompassing more than 2,500 buildings, have some cameras, according to Housing Authority testimony delivered this week to the City Council. But only 41 percent of the individual building stock has cameras, leaving the majority of lobbies, elevators and stairwells unwatched.

Meanwhile, the New York Police Department operates more than 7,000 cameras throughout Manhattan, particularly near Times Square, the World Trade Center and other tourist locations. □

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CASINO AND SHOPS

40 suspected gang members arrested in Harlem raids

J. DAVID GOODMAN

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NEW YORK - Police officers in body armor swooped into two Harlem

housing projects at dawn Wednesday in a series of simultaneous raids aimed at scores of suspected gang members indicted

on charges of planning and carrying out tit-for-tat gunbattles stretching back to the 2011 murder of an 18-year-old basketball star.



One of the dozens of suspected gang members corralled in simultaneous early-morning raids is led away by police in the Harlem neighborhood of New York, June 4, 2014. The indictment cites 103 people, roughly 30 of whom were already in jail, with two killings, 15 shootings, and a host of other crimes. (Robert Stolarik/The New York Times)

Helicopters thundered over the two developments at 6 a.m. as radios crackled on the ground among hundreds of assembled officers.

"Green light at 0-600," one commander instructed.

"Guys, follow me," another said. Soon swarms of warrant-bearing officers in helmets and vests rushed into buildings in teams of five or six or as many as a dozen, hauling out men in states of semi-undress from addresses in the Grant and Manhattanville Houses, as well as some surrounding buildings. In all, 40 people were arrested on charges of conspiracy, assault and weapons offenses in connection with violence in and around the housing developments. Police Commissioner William J. Bratton and the Manhattan district attorney, Cyrus R. Vance Jr., said in a news conference at Police Headquarters later in the day.

A pair of indictments charges 103 people in rival groups, 39 of whom are already in jail; the rest remain at large. The crimes alleged include two killings and at least 19 shootings between January 2010 and May 30, part of a feud that had gone on "for decades," Vance said. The early-morning arrests were the latest in a strategy honed by the district attorney and the Police Department in recent years to create complex conspiracy cases out of retribution murders and shootings, wrapping up dozens of gunmen and their associates at once. Similar operations aimed at gangs in East Harlem, the Bronx and Brooklyn have been followed by drops in the number of shootings and killings in pockets that had been plagued by violence.

Bratton has heralded the approach, begun under his predecessor, Raymond W. Kelly, and called Operation Crew Cut, promising to extend it to more areas of problematic crime. In a joint interview on Monday with Vance, Bratton said

that the strategy could be particularly effective in attacking networks of thieves and fencing operations that facilitate thefts of electronic devices such as iPhones or engage in identity theft.

"In addition to the violence that they engage in that is so much a part of their world," Bratton said, crews are "increasingly getting into some of the so-called feeder crimes: identity theft, credit card theft, thefts of the phones."

Focusing attention on those crimes could also provide another way of disrupting violence around the city, he said, because the police believe some of the same people are involved in those different activities. While killings are down so far this year, the number of shootings is rising.

In Harlem, a violent rivalry between groups of men dated back at least to the September 2011 killing of a high school basketball star, Tayshana Murphy, 18, who was shot in a hallway of the Grant Houses.

Her brother, Taylorn Murphy, had been an associate of one group, the police said. He was among those named Wednesday in the indictment, which quotes from Facebook messages said to have been posted by Taylorn Murphy about his involvement in shootings before her death. A few months later, in December 2011, a man shot and killed Walter Sumter, 18, after a party; he was believed by the police to be a member of a rival group.

Two men were convicted of murder in the death of Tayshana Murphy, one in 2013 and the second this year. But that did not stop the shootings. Indeed, the police and local residents said, the violence appeared to be escalating in the last two months, with several shootings in the blocks around 125th Street and Amsterdam Avenue. Hours before the raids, a young man was shot in the right arm Tuesday evening at 126th Street and Morningside Avenue.

Bergdahl's hometown cancels celebration amid release furor

BRIAN SKOLOFF

RAHIM FAIEZ

Associated Press

HAILEY, Idaho (AP) — Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl's hometown abruptly canceled plans Wednesday for a welcome-home celebration, citing security concerns over the prospect of big crowds both for and against the soldier.

The town of 8,000 has been swamped with hate mail and angry calls over Bergdahl, whose release after five years of Taliban captivity in Afghanistan has touched off a debate over whether the 28-year-old should get a hero's welcome or be punished a deserter.

Meanwhile, the Taliban released a 17-minute video of his handover showing a thin, tense-looking Bergdahl being patted down for explosives by U.S. forces before climbing aboard an American helicopter in the dusty Afghanistan desert.

Just before he was turned over, one of his Taliban captors leaned in and warned him: "Don't come back to Afghanistan. You won't make it out alive next time."

His captors waved goodbye as he was led away. In Hailey, organizers of a celebration that had been scheduled for June 28 issued a statement saying the town doesn't have the means to handle such an event, given the prospect of big crowds on both sides of the debate.

"If you had 10,000 people, 5,000 on one side and 5,000 on the other, then just due to the national attention, we don't know what to expect," Police Chief Jeff Gunter said.

The town has had an event called "Bring Bowe Back" for several years. When news broke over the weekend of Bergdahl's release in exchange for five Taliban detainees at Guantanamo Bay, organizers had announced it would be a welcome-home party instead. Hailey Chamber of Commerce President Jane Drusel said she and the organization have gotten hate mail and calls from people lambasting the town and branding Bergdahl un-American and a traitor.

"The joy has all of a sudden become not so joyful," she said. Bergdahl was captured by the Taliban after walking away from his unit, unarmed, in 2009.

U.S. lawmakers and others have also complained that Congress should have been consulted about the prisoner exchange, that the deal will embolden the Taliban to snatch more American soldiers, and that the released Afghans will filter back to the battlefield. In Washington, Rob Williams, the U.S. national intelligence officer for South Asia, told the Senate intelligence committee Tuesday that four of the men are expected to resume activities with the Taliban, according to two senior congressional officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because the session was classified.

The five include the former Taliban interior minister, who was described in a U.S. case file leaked by WikiLeaks as having had close ties to Osama bin Laden; the Taliban's former deputy chief of intelligence; and a former member of a joint Taliban-al-Qaida cell. The video of Bergdahl after five years in captivity shows a well-choreographed release, with the American sitting in a silver pickup truck while more than a dozen Taliban fighters with machine guns and faces largely covered by scarves stand guard nearby and on a rocky hill overlooking the site. Wearing traditional loose-fitting Afghan trousers and a long tunic, Bergdahl, his head shaved, blinks frequently and looks tense as he peers out of the truck. □

Runoff set for 6-term senator

Continued from Front

In a statement issued Wednesday the National Republican Senate Committee reiterated its support for Cochran, saying, "We look forward to him emerging victorious in the runoff." But the big question that now hangs over the next three weeks will be just how much money the Committee is willing to put behind Cochran, and whether national Republicans and establishment-aligned groups go back on

Conservative hard-liners were hoping that McDaniel would give them their first major victory over an establishment candidate this year. Sens. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, Lamar Alexander of Tennessee and Pat Roberts of Kansas still face primary opponents, but the challengers in those states are underfunded and little-known. In Mississippi, though, Republican leaders expressed anxiety even before the polls closed about just how much money and effort Demo-

maries, when Tea Party groups helped unseat Sen. Richard G. Lugar of Indiana, only to watch his seat fall to the Democrats that November. Supporters of Cochran, hoping to motivate Republicans, openly expressed their fear that McDaniel, too, could lose the general election.

The race between Cochran, a senior member of the Senate Appropriations Committee who was first elected to Congress in 1972, and McDaniel, 41, was fought along generational and ideological



Chris McDaniel addresses his supporters at the Lake Terrace Convention Center in Hattiesburg, Miss. McDaniel and his challenger Sen. Thad Cochran each got about 49 percent of the vote in Tuesday's Republican primary, setting up a runoff where Cochran's backers fear his opponent's ardent supporters will be more likely to return to the polls.

(AP Photo/George Clark)

the air in Mississippi in support of Cochran.

One of the leading organizations, the Karl Rove-founded American Crossroads, said in a statement Wednesday that they would not spend money on Cochran's behalf.

Among McDaniel's supporters, the best financed of the outside conservative groups, the Club for Growth, indicated Wednesday that they would continue to help the challenger in a runoff. Chris Chocola, the group's president, pledged to vigorously pursue this race to its conclusion, and we will look forward to the election of Sen. Chris McDaniel."

crats may put behind their Senate candidate, former Rep. Travis Childers, should McDaniel be the Republican nominee. And in Washington, top Republicans planning a runoff strategy will have to consider how aggressively they want to target McDaniel - a man who could be their standard-bearer in Mississippi in three weeks.

Among all the Republican Senate races this year, Cochran, 76, was the most vulnerable old-guard Republican, and Tea Party groups spent more than \$5.2 million against him, flooding the state with anti-Cochran advertisements. That had been a successful strategy in the 2012 pri-

lines. McDaniel, a hard-charging lawyer from the Hattiesburg area, accused Cochran of being insufficiently conservative and not aggressive enough in confronting President Barack Obama, a deeply unpopular figure among Mississippi Republicans.

Cochran, a personification of the courtly Southern senator, often seemed out of place campaigning in the ideologically charged Tea Party era. Conservatives, seeing "pork" as a four-letter word, were no longer moved to vote for him simply because of the millions of dollars that Cochran had brought home from Washington during his long Senate career. □

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Boehner calls for more action on VA scandal

MICHAEL D. SHEAR
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WASHINGTON - Speaker John A. Boehner on Wednesday demanded that President Barack Obama do more to fix what Boehner called "the abject failure" of the Department of Veterans Affairs to meet the needs of the country's soldiers returning from battles abroad.

In a letter signed by the Republican House leadership, Boehner called on the president to support legislation offered by his members that would provide the secretary of Veterans Affairs more authority to fire people at the agency and would give veterans who face delays in seeing doctors the ability to temporarily go elsewhere.

"Are you willing to do whatever it takes, pending the results of the investigations that are underway, to ensure our veterans get the care we owe them, even if it means shaking up the current bureaucracy and re-thinking the entire system?" the lawmakers asked in the letter. The letter concludes: "The VA scandal is a na-

tional disgrace, and Americans are eager to know the extent of your willingness to personally take action in order to make things right for those who have served."

hearing on the House legislation to try to get consideration of a similar bill on the Senate floor.

Sanders is negotiating with Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz.,

of Veterans Affairs officials with some protections not in the House bill, but also to allow more veterans access to alternative care facilities and to authorize up



House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) speaks at a news conference in Washington. Boehner, in a June 4 letter signed by the Republican House leadership, called on President Barack Obama to support legislation that would provide the secretary of Veterans Affairs more authority to fire people at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(Stephen Crowley/The New York Times)

Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., chairman of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, postponed a Thursday

to reach a bipartisan accord that would expand the authority to fire or demote senior Department

to 27 new veterans facilities to deal with the backlog of veterans awaiting medical care. □

US: Shield against deportation can be extended

ALICIA A. CALDWELL
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Young immigrants who have won U.S. government protection from deportation can apply for another two years of safety.

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will start taking renewal applications from the more than half-million immigrants already enrolled in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program starting immediately.

Renewal applications are being sought now to en-

sure that immigrants already in the program don't fall out of status, Alejandro Mayorkas, the deputy secretary of the Homeland Security Department, said Wednesday. Renewals, like new applications, carry a \$465 fee. The program remains open for first-time applicants.

DACA, as the program has come to be known in immigration circles, was launched in advance of the 2012 presidential elections and the first applications were approved in September of that year.

Since then, more than 560,000 immigrants who arrived in the United States as children but didn't have legal status have been given permission to legally stay for two years.

Mayorkas announced the renewal program in the midst of President Barack Obama's latest push to get Congress to pass a comprehensive immigration bill in advance of November's midterm elections.

Last month the White House announced that a Homeland Security-led review of deportation policies would

be put on hold until the end of the summer.

The delay is aimed at giving Congress time to act on immigration before the August recess.

DACA was hailed by immigration advocates as a good interim fix to a larger problem of what to do with the more than 11 million immigrants thought to be living in the country illegally. Since the program's launch, those advocates have pushed Obama to do more for a larger group of immigrants. □

Oregon:
Supreme Court
refuses to block
gay marriages

J. J. COOPER
Associated Press

SALEM, Oregon (AP) — The U.S. Supreme Court on Wednesday refused to halt same-sex weddings in the western state of Oregon. A federal appeals court is considering whether a group opposed to gay marriage can intervene in the case.

The order follows an emergency appeal by the National Organization for Marriage that seeks to overturn U.S. District Judge Michael McShane's May 19 ruling that declared Oregon's same-sex marriage ban unconstitutional. The group had unsuccessfully tried to intervene in the lower court proceeding after Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum declined to defend the same-sex ban. The group filed its request with Justice Anthony Kennedy and he referred it to the full court, which denied the request without comment. Hundreds of same-sex couples in Oregon have obtained marriage licenses since McShane's order. The Oregon case differs from others where the justices have blocked same-sex unions while appeals work their way through the courts.

The state has said it will not appeal McShane's ruling and had asked the justices to refuse the request.

"We are delighted that the court has rejected NOM's attempt to derail marriage equality in Oregon," said David Fidane, director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon, which represented two of the four gay and lesbian couples who challenged the marriage ban. □

US Financial Front:

America's trade deficit at two-year high in April

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) The U.S. trade deficit jumped to a two-year high in April, as exports declined and imports surged to a record high.

The deficit rose to \$47.2 billion in April, up 6.9 percent from an upwardly revised March deficit of \$44.2 billion, the Commerce Department said Wednesday. Exports dropped for the fourth month out of the past five, falling 0.2 percent to \$195.4 billion. Meanwhile, imports climbed 1.2 percent to an all-time high of \$240.6 billion, reflecting record shipment levels of foreign-made cars, food, computers and other goods.

A wider trade deficit can act as a drag on growth because it means U.S. companies are earning less from their overseas markets. But it could also indicate rising U.S. demand as the country shakes off the effects of a harsh winter.

"We're obviously wary of falling back on using the weather as an excuse again, but the extreme cold winter, coupled with the drought in California, does partly explain why the U.S. is suddenly importing a lot more food and ex-



Rows of Mercedes-Benz cars and SUVs await distribution at the company's Vehicle Processing Center in Baltimore. The Commerce Department reported on the U.S. trade deficit for April on Wednesday, June 4, 2014.

(AP Photo/Patrick Semansky)

porting less," said Paul Ashworth, chief U.S. economist at Capital Economics.

In 2013, the trade deficit declined by 11.4 percent to \$476.4 billion. The result was led in part by a boom in U.S. energy production that cut America's dependence on foreign oil while boosting petroleum exports to a record high.

A larger trade gap in the first three months of this year compared to the fourth quarter shaved nearly a full percentage point from growth. Gross

domestic product shrank at an annual rate of 1 percent in the first quarter, also hurt by less business stocking of store shelves and a severe winter that disrupted consumer spending and factory production. But economists expect a strong bounce back in the current April-June quarter. Some estimate that growth could hover around 3.8 percent as the trade deficit narrows and stronger hiring boosts household incomes and consumer spending. However, the bigger-than-

fell 2.2 percent to \$29.8 billion, while U.S. petroleum exports rose 3.1 percent to \$11.8 billion.

The deficit with the 28-nation European Union hit a monthly record of \$14 billion in April as imports from that region hit an all-time high.

America's trade gap with China jumped 33.7 percent to \$27.3 billion in April, the largest gap since January. The U.S. deficit with China is the largest with any country, and this year's imbalance is running ahead of last year's record pace. That is putting pressure on the Obama administration to take a tougher stand on what critics see as unfair trade practices by China.

They say Beijing is manipulating its currency to keep it undervalued against the dollar. That makes Chinese goods cheaper in the United States and American products more expensive in China.

The administration last month announced it had won a major victory before the Geneva-based World Trade Organization in a case in which the United States had challenged China's imposition of penalty tariffs on the sale of \$5 billion in U.S.-made vehicles in China. □

US productivity falls at 3.2% rate in 1Q

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. productivity fell even more than previously thought in the January-March period while labor costs rose at a faster pace.

Productivity, the amount of output per hour of work, declined at an annual rate of 3.2 percent in the first quarter, the weakest showing since the beginning months of the recession in 2008, the Labor Department reported Wednesday. Unit labor costs rose at a 5.7 percent rate, the fastest pace in more than a year.

Rising labor costs and falling productivity can be a cause for concern if they are an indication that in-

flation is worsening. But the first quarter performance was seen as a temporary bump caused by an unusually harsh winter which caused the economy to go into reverse. A strong rebound is expected in the current quarter.

Initially, the government reported that productivity fell at a smaller 1.7 percent rate in the first quarter. The initial estimate put the rise in labor costs at a 4.2 percent rate.

The reason the numbers were revised was that the economy's overall output in the first quarter, as measured by the gross domestic product, was revised sharply lower. Instead of the GDP growing at a tiny 0.1 percent rate in the

January-March period, the government reported last week that the economy actually shrank, falling at a 1 percent rate.

Analysts believe overall GDP will bounce back in the current April-June period and they also are looking for productivity to recover as well.

The Federal Reserve keeps close watch on productivity and labor costs for any signs that inflation is threatening to rise to an unacceptable rate. But economists say the Fed will see the first quarter weakness in productivity and rise in labor costs as temporary developments reflecting the harsh winter rather than an indication of the start of a worrisome trend. □

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Fed survey:

Economy showing improvement across US

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) A Federal Reserve survey shows the U.S. economy strengthening over the past two months in areas from manufacturing and construction to retail sales and bank lending.

Seven of the Fed's 12 regions Boston, New York, Richmond, Chicago, Minneapolis, Dallas and San Francisco reported "moderate" growth during the early spring, while the remaining five described growth as "modest," according to the Beige Book survey released Wednesday.

Retail sales were reviving, helped by pent-up demand for new cars after the harsh winter, the survey found. Manufacturing was expanding in all regions, along with lending. One weakness was home sales, held back in large part by a tight supply of available homes.

The Beige Book is based on anecdotal reports from businesses and will be considered along with other data when Fed policymakers meet June 17-18.

Nothing in the report is likely to alter the widespread view that the Fed thinks the economy is reviving after a winter slowdown.

"The picture painted by the collective anecdotes in today's Beige Book may not

illustrate robust growth, but it suggests the economy is at least moving in the right direction," said Dana Saporta, an economist at Credit Suisse.

Jennifer Lee, senior economist at BMO Capital Markets, said it marked the 24th time out of 28 reports going back to early 2011 that the Fed has used "modest," "moderate" or often both words to describe the

long-term rates low to spur spending and economic growth. The purchases, now at \$45 billion a month, will likely be phased out entirely this fall.

The Beige Book suggests that despite the spring rebound in activity, inflation remains contained and wage pressures subdued. Low inflation has given the Fed the leeway to keep interest rates exceptionally

in the Boston, New York, Atlanta and Kansas City districts. Growth was especially strong at factories connected to the auto, aerospace and metal industries.

Two-thirds of the Fed's districts reported rising demand for bank loans. Particular strength was seen in New York and San Francisco. Demand for auto loans was strong, coinciding with



Jody Dickman, of Pittsburgh, shops in a Gap store in Pittsburgh. A Federal Reserve survey shows the U.S. economy strengthening over the past two months in areas from manufacturing and construction to retail sales and bank lending.

(AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar)

economy.

Economists generally believe the Fed in June will pare its pace of monthly bond purchases by another \$10 billion and pledge to keep its key short-term interest rate at a record low near zero for a "considerable" period after its bond purchases end.

Beginning in December, the Fed has been reducing its bond purchases, which were designed to keep

low to try to boost growth and lower unemployment.

The Fed survey said the job market in much of the country has improved since its last Beige Book. Cleveland and Chicago reported increased demand for temporary workers. Several districts reported that employers were having trouble finding skilled workers. Manufacturing activity expanded in all 12 districts, with robust gains reported

reports of robust new-car sales.

But the Boston, New York and Kansas City regions reported that home sales were being held back by low or dwindling supplies of available homes. Other regions also described availability as low.

Fed Chair Janet Yellen has said that the Fed is monitoring conditions for any signs that the housing recovery is faltering. □

Report:

GM to release attorney's recall report Thursday

DETROIT (AP) — General Motors plans to release the results of an outside attorney's investigation into its mishandled recall of small cars on Thursday morning. The company says it is inviting reporters to a 9 a.m. event at its technical center in the Detroit suburb of Warren.

CEO Mary Barra will lead a worldwide employee meeting to discuss the report and hold a news conference afterward. In the afternoon, the company will update industry analysts in a conference call hosted by Barra.

GM has hired former U.S. Attorney Anton Valukas to investigate why it took the company more than 10 years to recall about 2.6 million small cars with faulty ignition switches. The company says the problem has caused at least 13 deaths, but trial lawyers suing GM say the toll is at least 60.

Documents show engineers in the company knew about the problem as early as 2001, yet GM didn't start recalling cars such as the Chevrolet Cobalt and Saturn Ion until February of this year.

Barra has promised that Valukas' investigation will be "unvarnished" and that she will take action on his recommendations.

GM has also hired attorney Kenneth Feinberg to negotiate compensation for families of crash victims. Feinberg told The Associated Press last week that he hasn't settled any cases and won't until GM decides on its options. He said the work is taking longer than he initially expected. □



Rebels seize 3 government bases in eastern Ukraine

NEBI QENA

MONIKA SCISLOWSKA

Associated Press

LUHANSK, Ukraine (AP) —

Pro-Russian insurgents captured three government bases in eastern Ukraine in a series of humiliating defeats for the beleaguered armed forces on Wednesday, as the president-elect promised new initiatives to help end the mutiny in the country's industrial heartland.

Petro Poroshenko, speaking in Warsaw after meeting with President Barack Obama and other Western leaders, rejected a call from Ukraine's interim authorities to introduce martial law in the restive east, saying he would seek to pacify the region with an offer of amnesty and a promise of early regional elections.

Poroshenko's overture, expected to be detailed in his inaugural address on Saturday, came as the Ukrainian troops suffered a series of embarrassing setbacks on Wednesday.

National Guard forces ran out of ammunition and had to flee their base near the eastern city of Luhansk after hours of battle in which six militants were killed and three Ukrainian servicemen were injured.

The defeat came as rebel forces seized a border guard headquarters on the city's outskirts after besieging it for two days, then forced guards out of another base in the nearby town of Sverdlovsk on the Russian border. The guards there were granted safe passage and left with their weapons.

The setbacks highlighted the ineffectiveness of Ukraine's badly trained and cash-starved armed forces, which also have been plagued by bad communication and poor supply lines.

Ukraine's provisional authorities have blamed the recent military failures on pro-Russia former President Viktor Yanukovych, claiming that his corrupt government starved soldiers of resources and training.

The fund shortage is so des-

perate that the Defense Ministry had to set up a charity account to support the armed forces while volunteers across the country have been buying provisions for the soldiers.

Obama, in Warsaw for a celebration on the 25th anniversary of Poland's first partially free election, praised Poroshenko for reaching out to the east, while offering \$5 million

in new aid for Ukraine's military — for equipment that could help in the fight against the insurgents.

The White House said the aid would include, for the first time, body armor and night-vision goggles for the use of troops. The United States already has provided ready-to-eat meals and money for medical supplies and other non-lethal assistance, including clothing,

sleeping bags and generators.

Many Ukrainian units in the east are manned by poorly-trained conscripts, who come from the region and appear reluctant to engage the rebels.

In the skirmishes overnight into Wednesday, Alexei Toporov, a spokesman for the insurgents in Luhansk, said the guards were fleeing, and the insurgents did

not try to detain them.

"We released them and let them go home, we impeded nobody," he said. A rebel fighter who gave only his first name, Andrei, said the insurgents wanted to create a "humanitarian corridor" that would allow civilians to flee to Russia to escape the fighting.

An Associated Press reporter saw pro-Russian militia carrying crates of ammunition and explosives out of the base on Wednesday and driving away in border guards' cars.

Ukraine's Border Guard Service said that the troops from that outpost had been evacuated to unspecified "safe locations." The fighting in the east has escalated following the May 25 presidential vote won by Poroshenko, with rebels launching an attack on a major airport, shooting down a government helicopter, and besieging a number of military bases. Trying to regain the initiative, Ukrainian troops on Tuesday launched an offensive against pro-Russian insurgents in Slovyansk, a city that sits on a strategic highway about 90 kilometers (55 miles) north of Donetsk, the largest city in the east.



Pro-Russians shoot in honor of Alexander Alexandrovich Gizai, a member of military-patriotic group 'Kaskad' who was killed Monday during clashes with Ukrainian troops, during his funeral in Luhansk, eastern Ukraine, Wednesday, June 4, 2014. Pro-Russian rebels seized an Ukrainian border troops military unit and collected large amounts of weapons and ammunition left behind by the Ukrainian troops.

(AP Photo/Vadim Ghirda)

Syria's Assad wins presidential vote in landslide

ALBERT AJI

Associated Press

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) —

Syrian President Bashar Assad has been re-elected in a landslide, officials said Wednesday, capturing another seven-year term in the middle of a bloody 3-year-old uprising against his rule that has devastated the country.

Syria's parliament speaker, Jihad Laham, announced the final results from Tuesday's election, saying Assad garnered 10,319,723 votes, or 88.7 percent. Assad's two challengers, Hassan al-Nouri and Maher Hajjar, won 4.3 percent and 3.2 percent respectively. The Supreme Constitutional Court put turnout at 73.42 percent.

Assad's victory was always

a foregone conclusion, despite the presence of other candidates on the ballot for the first time in decades. The opposition and its Western allies denounced the election as a farce, with U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry calling it a "great big zero." Damascus erupted into a thunderous, rolling clap of celebratory gunfire that appeared to include heavy weaponry after the results were announced. Thousands of Assad supporters flocked the streets to celebrate, some waving large Syrian flags and others carrying photos of Assad as car horns blared. Some men broke into the familiar pro-Assad chant: "With our souls, with our blood, we sacrifice for you, Bashar!"

Lebanon's Al-Mayadeen television aired live footage from the government stronghold of Latakia and the war-ravaged city of Homs, which the government recaptured last month, showing crowds of people celebrating with flags and posters of Assad amid cries of "God, Syria, Bashar!" Fireworks lit up the night sky in Latakia.

Voting was held only in government-controlled areas, excluding huge tracks of northern and eastern Syria that are in rebel hands. Tens of thousands of Syrians abroad voted last week, although many of the more than 2.7 million Syrian refugees across the region either abstained or were excluded by law.

The vote provided no re-

sults from the war. As people filed to the polls in Damascus on Tuesday, the rumble of government shelling and airstrikes on rebellious suburbs provided an ominous backdrop and sobering reminder that not all Syrians were able to cast their ballots.

That did nothing to diminish the enthusiasm of Assad's supporters, for whom the election victory provided a boost amid a war that has touched every family on both sides of the divide.

The win also provides further evidence that the Syrian leader has no intention of relinquishing power, making a protracted conflict the likely outcome in fighting that has already lasted three years and killed more than 160,000 people.

In absentia: Russia's Putin dominates G-7 summit

JUERGEN BAETZ

JOHN-THOR DAHLBURG

Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — Russian President Vladimir Putin was kept out of Wednesday's summit of major economies over his actions in Ukraine, yet world leaders appeared eager to seek his renewed cooperation to settle the crisis.

"At this stage we consider that we have some possibilities, diplomatic and political, to see if Russia is ready to engage more and to

with Putin during ceremonies for the 70th anniversary of the D-Day invasion later this week. U.S. President Barack Obama, however, has no plans to meet with Putin.

In March, the U.S. and its most important allies retaliated for Putin's military occupation and subsequent annexation of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula by suspending Russia's membership in what had been the G-8 club of rich countries. They also nixed Putin's plan

they need his support to manage other global security concerns like Syria, Iran and Afghanistan. However, their positions on Russia diverge significantly.

The United States has decided Russia will remain a strategic challenge. Speaking in Poland on Wednesday, Obama announced new military measures meant to reassure NATO allies in Eastern Europe worried about Russia. But the Europeans, who get oil and gas from Russia and are keen on do-



Russian President Vladimir Putin toasts at a ceremony in the Kremlin in Moscow. Putin was kept out of Wednesday's summit of major economies over his actions in Ukraine, yet world leaders appeared eager to seek his renewed cooperation to settle the crisis. (AP Photo/Yuri Kadobnov)

stop the destabilization in Ukraine," said the summit's host, European Union President Herman Van Rompuy. When pressed on further sanctions against Russia, Van Rompuy told reporters "we only continue the preparations" on a technical level should they be necessary.

Since Russia refrained from a full-out invasion of Ukraine, started pulling back its troops from the border and reluctantly accepted the results of Ukraine's presidential election, Western leaders apparently no longer want to talk about imposing new sanctions, but sought to renew diplomatic contacts. That effort is already well under way with French President Francois Hollande, British Prime Minister David Cameron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel all planning talks

to hold the meeting in Sochi, the city Russia lavished billions on to host the 2014 Winter Olympics.

At the time, Obama promised to "impose a greater cost" on Putin and his country if the confrontation over Ukraine escalated. But beyond a ringing statement of unity and a stiffly worded communique directed at Russia from the Brussels gathering of Obama and the leaders of Canada, Japan, Britain, France, Germany and Italy, little more is expected. How to handle relations with Putin was certain to dominate the leaders' dinner.

"I don't see what else could dominate the agenda," said Vivien Pertusot, head of the Brussels office for the French Institute of International Relations.

The G-7 members are also aware that they can't fully alienate Putin because

ing business with Moscow, were never that keen to isolate the country. Germany always stressed it wanted to maintain a constructive dialogue with Russia, and France has even continued building warships for the Russian Navy.

"The Group of Seven has stood together very well over the past weeks on this issue we are discussing tonight; the question of Ukraine and Russia," Merkel insisted upon her arrival in Brussels. The leaders will discuss how to further support Ukraine and renew dialogue with Russia, while making it clear that the threat of sanctions remains on the table, she said.

On Thursday, the G-7 will discuss the world economy, energy and climate policy and development.

The meeting was not expected to produce any major decisions. □

Spain's Crown Prince Felipe talks of unity in first speech

ALAN CLENDENNING

ALVARO BARRIENTOS

Associated Press

YESA, Spain (AP) — In his first speech since he was tapped to become king, Spain's Crown Prince Felipe on Wednesday spoke delicately about the need for unity in the Mediterranean country that has been hit by separatist fervor and crushing unemployment. Sticking to protocol as the future symbolic leader of Spain's constitutional monarchy, Felipe got his point across without mentioning by name Spain's two biggest problems: The drive in the northeastern region of Catalonia for a secession referendum and the nation's 25 percent jobless rate.

"In the difficult times like those we are going through, the experience of times past shaped in history show us that only by uniting our hard work, putting the common good in front of special interests and promoting initiative and ... the creativity of each person, we succeed in advancing toward better scenarios," Felipe said at a cultural award ceremony in an ancient church in northeastern Spain.

Watched attentively by his wife Princess Letizia, Felipe characterized Spain as both "united and diverse."

The crown prince will become King Felipe VI as early as June 18 following Monday's announcement by King Juan Carlos that he will abdicate because his son is ready for the job and because the country needs new royal blood to lead it.

Royalty experts said Felipe's appearance gave strong hints that the 46-year-old crown prince will be a discreet and well-prepared ruler, his regal style molded by decades of preparation in Spain and abroad.

"He's a man with a duty and a job to do and the careful and constant training he has had will play out in a dignified, politically adept but quite bland sort of way," said Mary Vincent, a professor of modern European history at Britain's University of Sheffield.

Europe's youngest king will be averse to scandals that have tainted Spain's royal family in recent years and will benefit from strong popular support for Letizia, 41, a former television journalist dubbed the country's first "Middle Class Queen" in Spanish media this week.

"He is young man who has been trained from birth for the job," said Hugo Vickers, a British historian and European royalty expert. "And he seems to have a proactive, glamorous wife."

Juan Carlos is widely respected for leading Spain's transition from dictatorship to democracy and staving down a 1981 coup attempt. But his reputation took a big blow following a secret 2012 elephant hunting trip to Botswana at the height of Spain's financial crisis plus a corruption investigation targeting a son-in-law.

"If Felipe stays out of trouble and does a good job he'll recuperate some of the public feeling his father has lost," Vincent said. "I am sure he won't be hunting any elephants."

Standing just shy of 2 meters (6 feet, 5 inches) tall, the crown prince speaks fluent English and French and can give speeches in Spain's additional official languages of Basque, Catalan and Gallego. He graduated with a law degree from Madrid's Autonomous University and has a master's degree from Georgetown University in Washington D.C.

He frequently travels abroad on official state business and especially to Latin America to attend presidential inaugurations and boost Spanish business interests and cultural ties. With his father's health declining in recent years, Felipe has already replaced Juan Carlos on many trips. □

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Brazilian president rejects criticism over World Cup

SIMON ROMERO

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BRASÍLIA, Brazil - The year was 1970. Agents of Brazil's military dictatorship had arrested Dilma Rousseff, then a member of a fledgling urban guerrilla group, the Palmares Armed Revolutionary Vanguard. Inside the prison where she was being held in São Paulo, a debate raged among the inmates: Should they support Brazil in that year's World Cup?

"At that time, many people opposed to the government initially questioned whether we would be strengthening the dictatorship by rooting for Brazil's team," Rousseff, 66, who is now Brazil's president, said in an interview here Tuesday. "I had no such dilemma."

She said resistance dissipated among the jailed guerrillas in the run-up to Brazil's victory over Italy in the championship match, which took place in Mexico City.

With Brazil's government facing widespread discontent over its preparations for the World Cup, Rousseff made the rare public reference to her imprisonment decades ago, when interrogators tortured her during three years in jail. Sipping orange juice and nibbling on cashews at a spacious circular table in her office, she defended loans from state banks for new stadiums for the soccer tournament and insisted that Brazilians planning to shun the event were a "small minority."

As the start of this year's World Cup on June 12 approaches, Rousseff is grappling with a wave of strikes,

a sluggish economy and a presidential race pitting her against rivals who have climbed in public opinion polls. While she is still viewed as a favorite in the October elections, her government has come under criticism over delays in

were going in Brazil, up from 55 percent just weeks before huge street protests in June 2013 shook Brazilian cities.

The survey, based on 1,003 face-to-face interviews with Brazilian adults in April, also found that two-thirds

lows an economic boom that culminated in 7.5 percent growth in 2010, has been compounded by scandals at Brazil's national oil company, Petrobras, and a multiyear slowdown in economic growth. The economy grew only 0.2

her economic record in an hourlong interview at the presidential palace in the modernist capital, Brasília. She insisted that various measures showed that life had generally improved in Brazil.

Citing anti-poverty projects that have pulled millions of people into the middle class over the last decade, she said that incomes for poorer Brazilians had climbed well above the rate of inflation, making Brazil's progress in reducing poverty comparable to Spain's experience after the death in 1975 of the dictator Francisco Franco, which ushered in a transition to democratic government.

Emphasizing that inequality had fallen in Brazil while growing in the United States and parts of Europe, Rousseff, an economist by training, spoke glowingly of the work of Thomas Piketty, the professor at the Paris School of Economics whose sweeping studies of inequality have gained widespread attention.

"I think he's done a fantastic job," Rousseff said of Piketty, who has stood by his conclusions about the evolution of wealth inequality after The Financial Times attacked his data. □



Dilma Rousseff, the president of Brazil, during an interview in Brasilia, June 3, 2014. Despite mounting criticism of Brazil's expensive preparations for the World Cup, Rousseff defended state loans for new stadiums, noting soccer's long history as a unifying force in the country.

(Mauricio Lima/The New York Times)

finishing World Cup construction and an array of other stalled public works projects.

A survey released Tuesday by the Pew Research Center found that 72 percent of respondents were dissatisfied with the way things

said Brazil's economy was in bad shape, and that 61 percent thought hosting the World Cup was a bad idea because it took resources away from public services, including health care and education.

The glum mood, which fol-

percent in the first quarter of 2014, slower than the 0.4 percent expansion reported in the previous three months.

Still, Rousseff, a member of the leftist Workers Party that has governed Brazil since 2003, vigorously defended

3 Jamaicans imprisoned over seizure of pot load

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)

— Three men have been convicted of violating Jamaica's dangerous drugs act nearly two years after authorities caught them with a haul of marijuana, police said this week.

The three Jamaican men were arrested in July 2012 after police stopped

their car at a checkpoint and seized roughly 2,700 pounds (1,225 kilograms) of compressed marijuana. Police said Tuesday that one man was sentenced to two years of hard labor in a Jamaican prison. The other two were sentenced to 18 months of hard labor. They were all fined.

Jamaica is believed to be the Caribbean's largest producer and exporter of pot. Plants are grown mostly on the sides of mountains, swampy areas or hidden among other crops.

A few Cabinet ministers have publicly taken up the idea of pot decrimi-

nalization and launching a medical marijuana industry as lobbyists push the government to loosen up drug laws.

But the government of Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller has not made clear whether any changes to drug laws will actually be made. □

Flood of Unaccompanied Minors Rush To Cross Southwest Border

FRANCES ROBLES

© 2014 New York Times

SAN PEDRO SULA, Honduras

After a decade apart, 13-year-old Robin Tulio was finally heading to the border to be with his mother. A maid living illegally in Baltimore, she had decided the time was right to smuggle her son into the United States.

Like so many others across Central America, Robin said his mother believed

47,017 unaccompanied children have been apprehended at the southwest U.S. border, most traveling from Central America, part of a larger wave that includes some youngsters accompanied by their parents and some traveling alone. Many say they are going because they believe that the United States treats migrant children traveling alone and women with their children

would be allowed to stay or that immigration reform would in some way benefit these children," said Cecilia Muñoz, the director of the White House Domestic Policy Council, in a conference call with reporters Monday. "It seems to be quite clear that what is driving this is what's happening in their home countries." Officials said that recently arrived children would not benefit from the immigra-

prompted other parents to make the trip with toddlers in tow, something rarely seen before in the region. "If you make it, they take you to a shelter and take care of you and let you have permission to stay," Robin said after he stepped off a bus on a Thursday night with eight others caught on their way north. "When you appeal your case, if you say you want to study, they support you."

a 2008 federal law aimed at protecting trafficked children, the administration in 2013 deported one-fifth the number of Central American children as were expelled in 2008, according to federal government statistics.

Ana Solorzano, an immigration official who tends to deportees in El Salvador, said that as the number of deportees flown by air to El Salvador from the United States started to drop, the number of people returned by land from Mexico started to rise. Of the 325 Salvadoran children who were deported last year, only 22 came from the United States, she said.

"They have not publicly recognized a change in public policy, but we see it," Solorzano said.

Central Americans, she said, were left with the sense that the United States had "opened its doors" to women and children.

As more of those children were released from federal shelters and the number placed with parents or in foster care soared, other parents noticed. Those parents were encouraged by the opportunities children were being given to fight their cases in court - even if they were ultimately unlikely to succeed.

"It's a massive Catch-22," said Wendy Young, president of Kids in Need of Defense, an organization that matches unaccompanied minors with volunteer lawyers. "The problem here is that the system is broken. It's going to implode."

One federal judge slammed the Department of Homeland Security for "completing a criminal conspiracy" by placing a recently smuggled child with the undocumented immigrant parent who had hired the smugglers.

Experts say it is the dual dynamics of crime at home and perceived leniency across the border that have inspired many in Central America to risk the trip. The United Nations has consistently listed Honduras, for example, as a country with the highest murder rate in the world. □



Three girls eat breakfast in an animal shed they use as a play house at a migrant shelter where the population of women and children has more than doubled in recent months, in Tenosique, Mexico, May 30, 2014. A recent rush of mostly Central American children attempting to enter the U.S. -- so severe the United Nations declared it a humanitarian crisis -- appears to be fueled in part by a perceived subtle shift in the U.S. government's immigration policies.

(Meridith Kohut/The New York Times)

that the Obama administration had quietly changed its policy regarding unaccompanied minors and that if he made it across, he would have a better shot at staying.

She hired a smuggler, but Robin didn't make it.

"It's too hard," he said after being caught in Mexico recently and sent home to Honduras.

But his aborted journey helps explain why there has been a rush of migration of unaccompanied minors so severe that the United Nations declared it a humanitarian crisis akin to refugees' fleeing war.

Since Oct. 1, a record

more leniently than adult illegal immigrants with no children.

The Obama administration says the primary cause of the influx of children is rising crime and ailing economies in Central America, not U.S. policy changes.

To deal with the surge, the administration Monday used a California naval base to house recently apprehended minors and ordered the federal emergency administrator to develop a plan of action.

"We have heard sort of rumors and reports, or suggestions, that the increase may be in response to the perception that children

tion bill passed by the Senate last year, or by Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, a program that lets minors who meet certain criteria avoid deportation. But even as the government moves to confront the situation, children, parents, immigration officials, lawyers and activists interviewed said that there has been a subtle shift in the way the United States treats minors.

That perception has inspired parents who have not seen their children for years to hire so-called coyotes, guides often associated with organized crime, to bring them north. It has

In San Pedro Sula, in northern Honduras, a group of women and their children were huddled in a bus terminal earlier in the week ready to begin a week-long journey to Mexico and beyond.

"The passage is easier with the kids, and this way we're not dumping them with relatives," said Arelys Sánchez, who was traveling with two young daughters. "I think with them, it's easier for them to let you stay."

While the Obama administration has moved aggressively to deport adults, it has in fact expelled far fewer children than in the past. Largely because of

LOCAL Aruba TODAY

Loyal Visitors honored at the Divi Phoenix Beach Resort!



PALM BEACH – Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a group of loyal and friendly Visitors of Aruba, at the Divi Phoenix Beach Resort, as

Distinguished Visitors. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 consecutive years.

The honorees were John and Doreen Szwalek of Seaford, New York, Lisa Knowles of Wappingers Falls, New York, Barbara Andrews of Linthicum, Maryland, and Ilda Figuerón of Buenos Aires, Argentina. All the honorees are loyal

members of the Divi Phoenix Beach Resort and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the weather, beaches, restaurants and Casinos. The guests say that Aruba feels like a second home, where the people are like a family to them, and that

the Divi Phoenix is their 'home away from home.' The certificates were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Mrs. Avril and Mr. Michael Ras representing the Divi Phoenix Beach Resort. □

When on Aruba, Sandy and Bruce go to Fishes & More!



PALM BEACH - It's become a tradition: the first day that Sandy and Bruce from Langhorne, Pennsylvania, are on the island, they have dinner at Fishes & More Restaurant in the Arawak Garden, where they greatly enjoy the fish and salads. "We are on Aruba now for the 14th time,"

they say. Bruce and Sandy found Fishes & More when they just happened to pass by; now it's their favorite restaurant. So what did they have for dinner when the photographer took their picture? "A salad and the

blackened fish," was their answer. "It was delicious!"

Fishes & More is located in the Arawak Garden, a lovely plaza filled with restaurants, a piano bar and small shops across from the Occidental Resort. □

"We'll be back at Tango," say 'foodies' Deena and Tom Lyn



PALM BEACH - Foodies Deena Lyn from Mississippi and Tom Palmer from Texas had a great evening at Tango Argentine Restaurant. They were impressed with their tender steaks and loved the wonderful service at the restaurant in the lively Arawak Garden, where live music enhances the ambiance every night of the week.

Unfortunately this was their last evening on the island, but hopefully they will come back to sample more of Tango's menu options. The Arawak Garden is in walking distance of the hi-rise hotels; it is a cozy plaza filled with various restaurants and small shops and there is even a super piano bar for after-dinner drinks. □

Beauty On The Beach

Dawn Nardone

She is from Boston, MA. She has been visiting Aruba for the 15th time. The reason why she is loyal to Aruba is the kindness of the local people.

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becomes a total
caribbean experience



The Carubbian Festival:
Aruba's Carnival experience
every week of the year!

Most visitors don't have the opportunity to experience Aruba's cultural highlight of the year—Carnival (or, as we call it here, Carnaval). But now you can discover the colorful spirit of Aruba's Carnival every Thursday evening at the Carubbian Festival. Situated on the island's southern tip in the heart of San Nicolas where Caribbean and Aruban cultures meet, the Carubbian Festival brings Carnival to life with live Calypso and Soca music, a parade of glittery dancers showcasing many of our past Carnival's gorgeous costumes, festive brass bands, stilt walkers, handi-crafts, and traditional homemade cuisine of the Caribbean region.

We encourage you to spend an evening with the locals, and enjoy a taste of our culture at the Carubbian Festival. It's also a great family or group activity!

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Price : \$64 per person. \$32 children 12 years and under.
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Information: visit your guest services desk in your hotel
for more information and tickets.

The Carubbian Festival is an initiative of the Ministry of Tourism, Transportation, Primary Sector and Culture. Operated by the Carubbian Foundation.



Storey Family Honored at the Marriott Ocean Club



PALM BEACH - John and Jillian Storey together with Isabella Storey were recently honored as Distinguished

Visitors due to their 14th consecutive visit to Aruba. Ms. Marouska Heyliger representing the Aruba Tourism

Authority conducted the ceremony which was held at the Marriott Ocean Club. According to the family,

they love the island for the warm weather and beaches. In the photos you can see the honorees enjoying

the island and their moment in the sun, together with Lisette Bouwman from Marriott Ocean Club! □

Catch your own dinner with Driftwood! Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "from the pier to your plate!"



ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fisherman of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad. Driftwood owner Herby

Merryweater has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words :fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on 12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm.



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SPORTS

Aruba TODAY



In this May 19, 2012 file photo, Los Angeles Clippers owner Donald Sterling, left, and his wife Shelly watch the second half in Game 3 of an NBA basketball playoffs Western Conference semifinal against the San Antonio Spurs in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Attorney: Donald Sterling agrees to sell Clippers

TAMI ABDOLLAH
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Los Angeles Clippers owner Donald Sterling agreed Wednesday to sign off on selling the team to former Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer for what would be a record \$2 billion, according to his attorney. Sterling "has made an agreement with the NBA to resolve all their differences" and as co-owner has given his consent to a deal that was negotiated by his wife, Shelly Sterling, to sell the team, said attorney Maxwell Blecher. Representatives for Shelly Sterling declined to comment. The NBA declined to comment on Wednesday afternoon.

Continued on Page 18



O's Cruz homers,
wins in return to Texas

CRUZ CONTROL

Baltimore Orioles' Nelson Cruz celebrates at the plate after he hit a three-run home run in the eighth inning against the Texas Rangers in a baseball game Tuesday, June 3, 2014, in Arlington, Texas.

Associated Press
Page 20

Nadal, Murray set up French Open semifinal matchup

HOWARD FENDRICH

AP Tennis Writer

PARIS (AP) — Briefly, and only briefly, Rafael Nadal was in a difficult spot in the French Open quarterfinals. For the first time in this year's tournament, the eight-time champion dropped a set. And this had to be on Nadal's mind: His opponent, David Ferrer, could present real problems. Not only is Ferrer ranked No. 5, and not only was he the runner-up at Roland Garros a year ago — to Nadal, of course — but he also beat Nadal on red clay the last time they played each other. So how did Nadal handle this test? Perfectly. From late in the second set, he won 10 games in a row, and 13 of 14 the rest of the way, to come back and beat Ferrer 4-6, 6-4, 6-0, 6-1, setting up a semifinal Friday against Wimbledon champion Andy Murray.

"At the beginning," Nadal acknowledged, "David was playing with a higher intensity than me."

But once Nadal made a key adjustment — deciding to dispense with his surprisingly off-target backhand as much as possible and instead do whatever he could to use his topspin-heavy forehand — he took over.

After committing 28 unforced errors across the



Britain's Andy Murray returns the ball during the quarterfinal match of the French Open tennis tournament against France's Gael Monfils at the Roland Garros stadium, in Paris, France, Wednesday, June 4, 2014.

Associated Press

windy first two sets, Nadal had zero in the third, and only three in the last.

"When I was able to hit with my forehand," Nadal said, "I felt that I was in control." Ferrer, for his part, said that in the latter stages, "I lost my concentration, my focus."

It was Nadal's 33rd consecutive win at the French Open and improved his record in the event to 64-1. His only loss at the tournament came to Robin Soderling in

the fourth round in 2009. The Spaniard, who turned 28 on Tuesday, is not used to facing much in the way of hardship at Roland Garros. So Nadal took what he was able to do against Ferrer as a good sign.

"At the end of the day, I am rather happy to have been able to turn the situation around," said Nadal, who wasn't thrilled to be put on Court Suzanne Lenglen, the second-largest arena, for the second time

this year. "I managed to pull through, even though it was complicated."

The route Murray took during his 6-4, 6-1, 4-6, 1-6, 6-0 victory over No. 23 Gael Monfils of France was far more circuitous, finishing right on the cusp of dusk after 9:30 p.m. In front of a crowd loudly pulling for Monfils at Court Philippe Chatrier, Murray was terrific at the outset, mediocre in the middle, then closed on a high.

After a brief discussion with a tournament official over whether there was enough sun to play the fifth set — the Roland Garros courts have no artificial lights — Murray made the whole thing moot. He raced through that set in 21 minutes, winning 24 of 31 points, as Monfils appeared to stop trying.

"Everything happened very fast," Monfils said.

Said Murray: "It was so dark at the end. Thankfully for me, he played a poor fifth set once I got ahead."

Murray will be playing in the French Open semifinals for the second time; he lost to Nadal in 2011. In all, Nadal owns a 14-5 edge in their head-to-head matches.

"I need to recover very well," Murray said, "and try to be especially calm for that one."

The other men's semifinal will be No. 2 Novak Djokovic against No. 18 Ernests Gulbis.

Earlier, No. 4 Simona Halep of Romania and No. 28 Andrea Petkovic of Germany both moved into the semifinals of a Grand Slam tournament for the first time. Thursday's other women's semifinal will be 2012 champion Maria Sharapova against 18th-seeded Eugenie Bouchard of Canada.

Halep beat 2009 champion Svetlana Kuznetsova 6-2, 6-2, and Petkovic defeated 2012 runner-up Sara Errani by that very same score.

A year ago, Halep arrived at Roland Garros ranked 57th. But over the past 13 months, she's won seven titles. Petkovic, meanwhile, is enjoying a resurgence.

She made it to the top 10 in 2011, when she was the only woman to reach three major quarterfinals (although she went 0-3). In late 2012, she hurt her right knee, and her ranking plummeted to 177th last year. But she's worked her way back, and after eliminating Errani, the gregarious Petkovic kissed her racket — something she said she'd never done before. □



This file photo taken Nov. 19, 2013, shows then Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer during the company's annual shareholders meeting in Bellevue, Wash.

Associated Press

Continued from Page 17

Donald Sterling sued the NBA in federal court last week alleging the NBA violated his constitutional rights by relying on infor-

mation from an "illegal" recording that publicized racist remarks he made to a girlfriend. It also says the league committed a

breach of contract by fining Sterling \$2.5 million and that it violated antitrust laws by trying to force a sale.

Blecher said the suit will be dismissed. If the NBA owners approve the sale, it will be a record-high sum for a team that cost Donald Sterling about \$12 million in 1981.

Blecher's co-counsel, Bobby Samini, said the vote by league owners is expected to take place in mid-July.

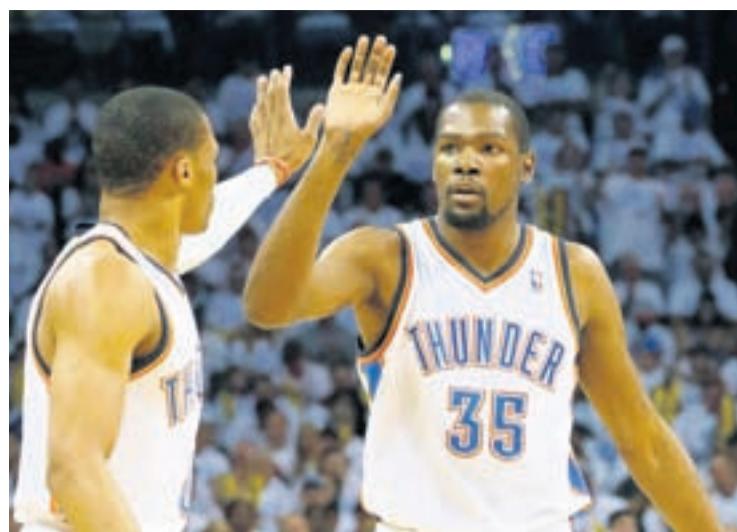
Ballmer beat out bids by Guggenheim Partners and a group including former NBA All-Star Grant Hill.

Ballmer made more than an hour-long personal visit to Shelly Sterling's Malibu home last week and laid

out his plan. This is not Ballmer's first foray into potential NBA ownership. Ballmer and investor Chris Hansen headed a group that agreed to a deal to buy the Kings from the Maloof family in January 2013 with the intention of moving the team to Seattle, where the SuperSonics played until 2008.

But Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson lobbied the NBA for time to put together a bid to keep the team in California,

and though the Ballmer-Hansen group later increased its offer, owners voted to deny the bid for relocation and the Kings were sold to Vivek Ranadive. □



Oklahoma City Thunder's Russell Westbrook, left, and Kevin Durant celebrate during the first half against the San Antonio Spurs in Game 6 of the Western Conference finals NBA basketball playoff series in Oklahoma City, Saturday, May 31, 2014.

Associated Press

Kevin Durant, LeBron James lead All-NBA first team selections

NEW YORK (AP) — Oklahoma City's Kevin Durant has capped his MVP season by being the lone unanimous choice to the All-NBA first team.

Durant was a first-teamer on all 125 ballots, and made the top squad for the fifth time. Miami's LeBron James got 124 first-team votes on the way to being selected for the eighth time, while the Los Angeles Clippers' Chris Paul earned his fourth first-team selection.

Houston's James Harden

and Chicago's Joakim Noah are first-time first-team choices.

Second-team All-NBA selections were San Antonio's Tony Parker, Golden State's Stephen Curry, the Clippers' Blake Griffin, Houston's Dwight Howard and Minnesota's Kevin Love. Portland's Damian Lillard and LaMarcus Aldridge, Phoenix's Goran Dragic, Indiana's Paul George and Charlotte's Al Jefferson were third-team selections. □

Spurs' Parker is a go for Game 1 of the finals

TIM REYNOLDS

AP Basketball Writer

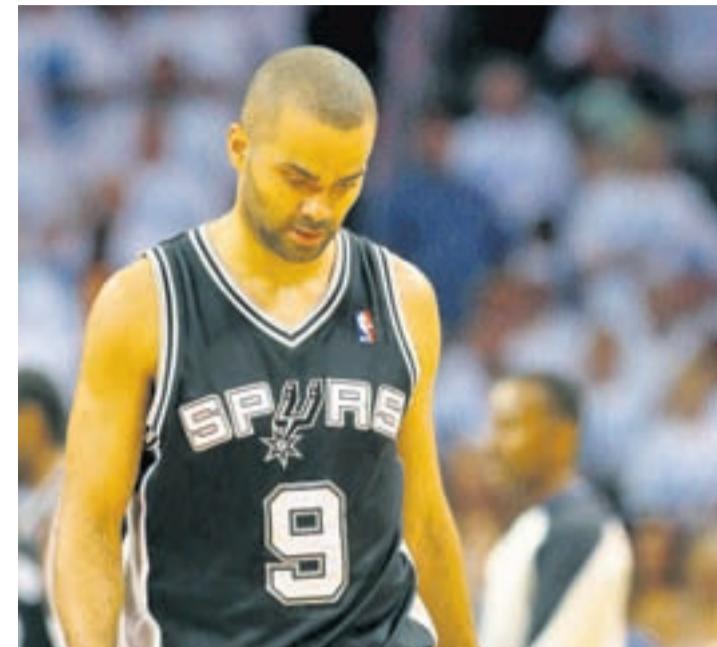
SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Tony Parker's left ankle is ready for the NBA Finals.

The San Antonio point guard has pronounced himself ready to go for Thursday night's Game 1 of the title series against the Miami Heat, after spending much of the last few days recovering from a sprain.

"I think he'll be fine," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said.

Parker acknowledged that he still has some concerns about how the ankle will hold up over the course of the finals. He and Popovich both indicated in recent days that treatment has helped considerably.

"I'm trying to be very positive," Parker said. "I'm trying to do everything I can, eat healthy, get my rest, go through treatment and just trust my body. I've been going for four years nonstop since 2010, no vacation. ... But I'm still here and I trust my body to hold up for the whole series." The Heat expect nothing less than the best of Parker. "Definitely, he'll be 100 percent," Heat guard Mario Chalmers said. "I doubt he'll sit out any time during the finals."



San Antonio Spurs guard Tony Parker heads downcourt between plays against the Oklahoma City Thunder in the first half of Game 6 of the Western Conference finals NBA basketball playoff series in Oklahoma City, Saturday, May 31, 2014.

Associated Press

Parker sprained the ankle in Game 4 of the Western Conference finals against Oklahoma City, then aggravated the injury in Game 5 of that series. He tried to play in Game 6 and made it through the first half, before the Spurs decided at halftime that his night was over. San Antonio was outscored by 11 points when Parker was on the floor in Game 6 against the Thunder, and rallied in the second half anyway.

The Spurs scored 37 points in the third quarter - their second-highest total during that period in 100 games this season - and went on to win in overtime to clinch their second straight trip to the finals. That meant Parker didn't have to play a Game 7 against the Thunder, and could just rehab instead. "That was huge," Parker said. "These five days were very helpful for me. I'm so proud of my teammates." □

Spurs disagree with James, say they respect Heat

RAUL DOMINGUEZ

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — LeBron James has it all wrong. Gregg Popovich is a people person.

"I like everybody," the San Antonio Spurs coach said in response to James' comments that the Spurs don't like the Miami Heat.

Immediately after San Antonio beat Oklahoma City in Game 6 of the Western Conference finals to set up the NBA Finals rematch with the Heat that begins on Thursday, Tim Duncan said, "We've got four more to win. We'll do it this time." The Spurs nearly did it last year, but coughed up a five-point lead in the final



Miami Heat forward LeBron James takes questions during a news conference at basketball practice on Wednesday, June 4, 2014 in San Antonio. The Heat play Game 1 of the NBA Finals against the San Antonio Spurs on Thursday.

Associated Press

don't think he meant it like that. But obviously, we are very motivated and we want to get it done."

Spurs guard Manu Ginobili said the comment was taken completely out of context and "not a big deal at all." He and Parker both said the Spurs have great respect for what the Heat have accomplished, having never made it to consecutive NBA Finals until this season.

San Antonio did so after a rugged postseason run in the Western Conference, escaping a seven-game series with Dallas before closing out Portland in five games, and Oklahoma City in six. □

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Cruz homers in return to Texas, Orioles win 8-3

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Nelson Cruz hit a towering three-run homer in his return to Texas and the Baltimore Orioles won their third straight game, 8-3 over the Rangers on Tuesday night. Cruz drove the first pitch from Shawn Tolleson deep into the left-field seats, capping a six-run Orioles outburst in the eighth. The slugger, who spent the previous eight seasons in Texas, is hitting .313 and leads the majors with 21 homers and 55 RBIs.

Adam Jones matched a career high with four hits, including a homer off the right-field pole leading off the Baltimore fourth. Rookie catcher Caleb Johnson had a tiebreaking RBI double in the eighth.

Brian Matusz (2-1) went 1 2-3 innings in relief of Ubaldo Jimenez, who held Texas to one run and four hits while striking out five over 5 2-3 innings.

Alexi Ogando (2-3), the second Texas reliever, got a popup to start the eighth before allowing three straight Orioles to reach.

WHITE SOX 4, DODGERS 1
LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jose Abreu homered for the second straight game and Tyler Flowers also went deep to lead Chicago.

Yasiel Puig went 2 for 4 with a double for the Dodgers on the one-year anniversary of his major league debut.

Hector Noesi (1-3) ended a stretch of 19 winless starts, winning as a starter for the first time since May 6, 2012 with Seattle, after going 0-12 with a 5.42 ERA. The 27-year-old right-hander allowed a run and five hits over six innings with six strikeouts.

Former Dodgers reliever Ronald Belisario pitched a perfect ninth for his fourth



Baltimore Orioles' Nelson Cruz steps up to bat during a baseball game against the Texas Rangers on Tuesday, June 3, 2014, in Arlington, Texas.

Associated Press

save.

Dan Haren (5-4) gave up four runs on six hits through six innings.

ATHLETICS 5, YANKEES 2
NEW YORK (AP) — Brandon Moss hit his second homer of the game leading off the 10th inning, and Oakland rallied for the road win.

Returning to the lineup after missing two games with a strained right calf, Moss drilled a full-count pitch from Adam Warren (1-3) into the second deck down the right field line for his 15th homer. That gave the AL West-leading A's their first lead in a game that was delayed more than an hour at the start by rain.

Dan Otero (5-1) pitched an inning and Sean Doolittle finished off the A's fourth straight win with a perfect 10th for his sixth save.

Mark Teixeira hit his 10th homer for the Yankees.

TWINS 6, BREWERS 4

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Josh Willingham hit a three-run

homer and Minnesota beat Milwaukee in a game delayed when a fan fell into the Brewers' bullpen.

The game was held up at the start of the eighth inning after the man fell. He was carried on a stretcher out of the bullpen in left-center field, and the Brewers said he was conscious and alert.

The man had a brace around his neck as he was put on a cart on the warning track. He was wheeled off and taken to a hospital. Willingham connected in the third off Yovani Gallardo (3-4) for a 4-1 lead.

Samuel Deduno (2-3) got the win and Glen Perkins earned his 15th save.

ROYALS 8, CARDINALS 7

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Eric Hosmer hit a tiebreaking single off closer Trevor Rosenthal in the ninth inning and Kansas City earned its second straight road victory in the four-game, two-city series.

Rookie Kolten Wong's first

career home run was a grand slam in the second that ended the Cardinals' 20-inning scoreless drought and gave them an early four-run cushion. The defending National League champions finished a dismal 2-7 homestand when their pitchers faltered.

Peter Bourjos' 422-foot homer put the Cardinals ahead 7-6 in the sixth. Alcides Escobar's bloop RBI single off Pat Neshek tied it in the eighth.

Omar Infante doubled off Rosenthal (0-3) with one out in the ninth ahead of Hosmer's hit.

Wade Davis (5-1) got the win and Greg Holland worked the ninth for his 16th save in 17 chances.

BLUE JAYS 5, TIGERS 3

DETROIT (AP) — Brett Lawrie's three-run homer highlighted a big burst for Toronto.

After eight scoreless innings between the AL East and AL Central leaders, both

bullpens came unglued in the ninth. The Blue Jays broke through against Joe Nathan (2-2).

J.D. Martinez hit a three-run homer with two outs in the ninth for the Tigers. Casey Janssen came on and struck out Don Kelly for his ninth save in 10 chances.

Detroit's Anibal Sanchez and Toronto's Drew Hutchison each pitched seven impressive innings.

Dustin McGowan (3-2) worked the eighth for the win.

In his first season with the Tigers, Nathan's ERA is now an unsightly 6.86 after he was charged with four runs Tuesday.

PIRATES 4, PADRES 1

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Pedro Alvarez and Neil Walker hit home runs to back Gerrit Cole's solid outing for Pittsburgh.

Cole (6-3) limited the Padres to one run and four hits while striking out six in 5 2-3 innings as the Pirates went to 6-1 in his last seven starts. Pittsburgh won its third straight game and 10th in its last 14.

Jason Grilli pitched a scoreless ninth inning for his ninth save.

Jesse Hahn (0-1) lasted 2 2-3 innings in his major league debut. He allowed four runs on six hits, including the homers by Alvarez and Walker, striking out five with two walks.

The Padres lost for the third consecutive time and sunk a season-high seven games under .500.

NATIONALS 7, PHILLIES 0

WASHINGTON (AP) — Jordan Zimmermann rebounded from a mini-slump to throw eight crisp innings for Washington, and Ryan Zimmerman hit a pair of doubles and handled two chances with aplomb in his debut in left field. □



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Second wave of former players join NFL lawsuit

JIM LITKE

AP Sports Writer

Former NFL star Marcellus Wiley added his name to a lawsuit accusing America's most popular pro sports league of illegally dispensing powerful narcotics and other drugs to keep players on the field without regard for their long-term health.

"The first thing people ask is, knowing what happened, would you do it again?" said Wiley, an ESPN analyst. "No. No I wouldn't."

The lawsuit was originally filed May 20 in U.S. District Court in northern California and amended Wednesday to add 250 more players, bringing the total to 750 plaintiffs. Wiley, who played in Buffalo, San Diego, Dallas and Jacksonville from 1997-2006, is the ninth player identified by name, joining former Chicago Bears Jim McMahon and Richard Dent and others.

Six of the plaintiffs in the lawsuit, including McMahon, were also parties to the concussion-related class-action lawsuit filed against the NFL less than a year ago. The NFL agreed to pay \$765 million to settle that case — without acknowledging it conceded the risks of concussions from former players. A federal judge has yet to approve the settlement, expressing concern the amount is too small.

The new lawsuit, which is seeking class certification, covers the years 1968-2008. It contends team physicians and trainers across the NFL routinely — and often illegally — provided powerful narcotics and other controlled substances on game days to mask the pain.

Among them were the painkillers Percodan, Percocet and Vicodin, anti-inflammatories such as To-

radol, and sleep aids such as Ambien. Lead attorney Steven Silverman said some teams filled out prescriptions in players' names without their knowledge or consent. He said those drugs were then "handed out like candy at Halloween" and often combined in "cocktails."

NFL spokesman Brian McCarthy said the league had no comment.

The former players have reported a range of debilitating effects, from chronic muscle and bone ailments to permanent nerve and organ damage to addiction. The players contend those health problems came from drug use but many of the conditions aren't tied to the use of painkillers.

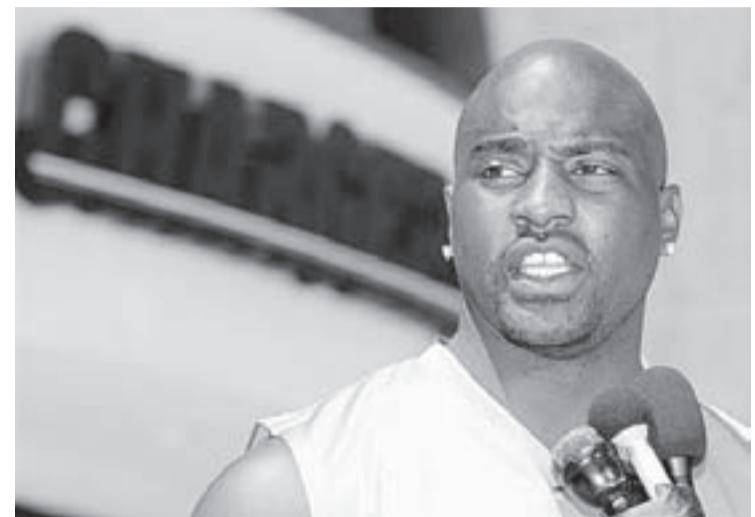
Wiley, 39, was not part of the concussion lawsuit, but decided to join former players in this one after suffering partial renal failure in April, despite no history of kidney problems. Wiley said he took "multiple injections" of painkillers over the course of a season to cope with an injury that then-San Diego team physician Dr. David Chao diagnosed as severe groin sprain. After the season, an independent doctor diagnosed a torn abdominal wall that required surgery.

"You can't walk into a doctor's office and say, 'Give me this, give me that, just to get through the day.' Somebody would shut the place down," Wiley said in a telephone interview. "But that's what was going on in the NFL. It's easy to get mesmerized. I won't deny that; there's this 'play through-the-pain, fall-on-the-sword' culture, and somebody in line ready to step up and take your place..."

Chao stepped down as San Diego's team physi-

cian last June, after the NFL Players Association called for him to be replaced and filed a complaint. An independent panel cleared Chao.

In April, as part of a stipulated settlement, Chao was placed on probation by the Medical Board of California. His license was also revoked, but that action was stayed while he remains on probation. He was accused of committing gross negligence, repeated negligent acts and acts of dishonesty or corruption. Chao was also found liable of malpractice in 2012 in a case involving a regular patient, not a Chargers player, with a judgment of nearly \$5.2 million. Records also show he has been publicly reprimanded by the board and



In this April 11, 2003 file photo, San Diego Chargers defensive end Marcellus Wiley talks with reporters outside the team's facility in San Diego.

Associated Press

pleaded guilty to driving under the influence. The lawsuit's main burden is proving cause and effect — that use of painkillers in the past caused the chronic problems the players face now. The players also

would have to show that they are suffering those problems at a greater rate than other people their age, and that it's not due to other risk factors such as obesity, smoking and family history. □

NFL star Adrian Peterson empathizes with former players

BARRY WILNER

AP Pro Football Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Adrian Peterson empathizes with former players who are suing the NFL over painkillers and other medication they were given during their playing days. More than 600 former players contend team physicians and trainers across the NFL routinely — and often illegally — dispensed powerful narcotics and other controlled substances on game days to mask pain. The players claim they have suffered an assortment of illnesses since, ranging from addiction to chronic muscle and bone ailments to permanent nerve and organ damage.

Peterson, who made a sensational return from torn knee ligaments to win the 2012 NFL MVP

award, says he's made sure he was completely informed about what he has been given throughout his career with the Minnesota Vikings, and in university at Oklahoma.

"It's a very unfortunate situation," Peterson said. "Anything I've taken to subside pain I knew what it was, and it was not ever forced on me. The side effects? I don't know if that was ever explained to them back then."

"I hope things work out in their favor. The NFL now and then, maybe this will give us insight into what happened back then. You make your own decisions, but if (repercussions) are not laid out to you..."

Peterson heads into his eighth NFL season as one of the most respected athletes in the league.

His return from a ravaged ACL in his left knee the previous December to nearly setting a league rushing record is considered one of the great comebacks. He still gets compliments from his peers on his ability to rehab so well, so fast, then return and dominate.

Peterson also had off-season hernia surgery this year.

"It's humbling to be able to have someone express to you on your rehab how it just inspired them to have a totally different mindset to overcome injury or obstacles in their life," Peterson said.

"It makes me feel good from a spiritual context, because life is so much more than football."

"It is inspirational to me to stand up to a challenge." □

California Chrome favored in last Triple Crown leg

BETH HARRIS
AP Racing Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — California Chrome became the early 3-5 favorite on Wednesday to win the Belmont Stakes and become horse racing's 12th Triple Crown champion and first in 36 years.

The Kentucky Derby and Preakness winner will face 10 rivals old and new on Saturday at Belmont Park. Since Affirmed became the last Triple Crown winner in 1978, three Belmont fields with the same history on the line also drew 11 horses in 1981, 1988 and 2002.

"They better worry about me," California Chrome trainer Art Sherman said.

California Chrome will break from the No. 2 post under Victor Espinoza, putting nine horses to his outside and giving Espinoza a good look at the early speed. Eleven Belmont winners have come out of that spot, the last being Tabasco Cat in 1994.

"I like number two," Espinoza said. "Hopefully, it's my lucky number."



California Chrome jockey Victor Espinoza, left, stands with co-owner Steve Coburn during the draw for the Belmont Stakes horse race; and Exercise rider Willie Delgado gallops California Chrome on a second lap during a workout at Belmont Park, Wednesday, June 4, 2014, in Elmont, N.Y.

Associated Press

Racing fans looking for an omen will see California Chrome listed No. 2 in the betting program, the same number as 1973 Triple Crown winner Secretariat, who won the Belmont by a record 31 lengths while setting a track record that stands for the 1 1/2-mile race.

California Chrome went for his usual gallop earlier Wednesday, and Sherman was pleased.

"I feel better about this race than I have any other race, to be honest with



you, just looking at the horse and saying, 'Wow,'" he said. "I see how far he's advanced. I know it'll be tougher going a mile and a half, but this horse is a good horse. I think he's the real McCoy."

Of California Chrome's 10 rivals, four come into the Belmont off a five-week break. Commanding Curve hasn't run since finishing second in the Kentucky Derby on May 3; Wicked Strong has been off since stumbling and finishing fourth in the

Derby.

Two other Derby horses, Samraat (fifth) and Medall Count (eighth), also skipped the Preakness on May 17.

Wicked Strong was a distant second choice at 6-1 and drew post No. 9. The colt is based at Belmont, and has one win in two previous races at the sprawling track.

"I'm pretty confident; as confident as I can be," Wicked Strong trainer Jimmy Jerkens said. "I really like how he's doing. It's a

big, prestigious race and people are going to take a shot, especially with the distance being a big question for everybody."

None of the horses has run as far as they will on Saturday, and few will ever be asked to do it again in their careers. Since most U.S. horses are trained for speed, the distance is unfamiliar and they aren't regularly trained to run that far. The Belmont is the longest of the Triple Crown races.

Four newcomers to the Triple Crown trail will try to derail California Chrome's bid for history.

Tonalist was made the third betting choice at 8-1 odds and will break from the No. 11 post. The colt has experience over the track, having won the Peter Pan Stakes on May 10.

So are Commissioner and Matterhorn, both trained by Todd Pletcher, and Matuszak.

Commissioner, listed at 20-1, finished second in the Peter Pan, and 30-1 shot Matterhorn was fourth.



Justin Gatlin, left, wins the men's 100 meters at the Prefontaine Classic track and field meet at Hayward Field on Saturday, May 31, 2014, in Eugene, Ore. At right is third-place finisher Jimmy Vicaut.

Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Not content with setting the best 100-meter times in the world this year, American sprinter Justin Gatlin is aiming to run even faster in Rome.

The Diamond League returns to Europe on Thursday, and the 100 will again be one of the highlights of the Golden Gala, the fourth event of the league.

Last month, Gatlin ran the 100 in 9.87 seconds in Beijing and 9.92 in Shanghai, before running a wind-aided 9.76 in the Prefontaine Classic.

"My whole motto this year is just go," the 2004 Olympic gold medalist said. "I've got Rome now and I want to go even faster." Gatlin edged Usain Bolt on the line by 0.01 seconds

Justin Gatlin aiming to run even faster in Rome

last season. Bolt, the world and Olympic champion, will not be at Stadio Olimpico this year, but the likes of former world champ Kim Collins, Jamaicans Nesta Carter and Kemar Bailey Cole, and world indoor 60 champion Richard Kilty will be aiming to take Gatlin's title.

In the women's event, Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce will be looking to bounce back from a disappointing 200 in Eugene, where she finished last.

Fraser-Pryce is the most titled sprinter in history in the 100, with two Olympic gold medals and two world titles.

The Jamaican won the 100 in the season-opening Diamond League meet in Doha, and the race in Bellinzona on Tuesday.

"In Eugene, my body did not respond. I felt a left

leg problem," Fraser-Pryce said. "I have not had a perfect start to the season but it's not a championship year. I executed the race better than in my previous 100-meter race in Doha."

Fraser-Pryce, who is looking for points to defend her Diamond Race title in the event, has never won at Stadio Olimpico and will face two athletes who have beaten her before in Rome — compatriot Kerron Stewart and Murielle Ahoure.

However, Fraser-Pryce has beaten Stewart in their past 11 meetings, and Ahoure finished second to her in both the 100 and the 200 at last year's world championships in Moscow.

Also contending will be American Torie Bowie, the surprise 200 winner in Eugene. Another highlight of the

Golden Gala is the high jump, which features five men with personal bests of 2.40 meters or better.

Olympic champion Ivan Ukhov of Russia cleared a world-leading 2.41 in Doha, which was also a Diamond League record.

He faces world champion Bohdan Bondarenko of Ukraine, who jumped the same height in Moscow, where he narrowly failed to set a world record. Derek Drouin, Mutaz Essa Barshim and Aleksey Dmitrik have also cleared 2.40.

In the 100 hurdles, Australia's Olympic champion, Sally Pearson, will race world champion American Brianna Rollins, who is making her Diamond League debut, and compatriot Nia Ali, who edged out Pearson on the line in the 60 hurdles at the world indoors in March.

Skip the website? Some small businesses still do

By JOSEPH PISANI

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) - It's cheap. It's easy to do. And it can take less than 20 minutes to set up. Yet more than half of all small businesses still don't have a website.

"It's just ridiculous," says Jim Blasingame, a small business author and radio show host. "Every small business needs a website. Period. Nonnegotiable."

Small businesses that don't have one say they don't have the time, think it will cost too much or don't want the rush of orders that comes with being online. But entrepreneurs that have jumped to the digital side say their websites have boosted sales, cut down on time-consuming phone calls and brought more people into their stores. But not everyone wants that.

Steve Love has never had a website for the handmade sausage and meat business he's owned since 1988. He says a website for LoveLand Farms would boost sales and he doesn't have any more farmland to raise hogs and Black Angus cattle.

"I don't want it to grow," says Love, who sells his goods at a farmers' market in Bloomington, Indiana, and a store in another town that's open once a week. "I'm already maxed

out. I'm scared it would blow up on me."

But customers expect one. When they ask him at the farmers' market if he has a website, he hands them a card with his phone number and a map to his shop called the Sausage Shack in Nashville, Indiana. He has no plans to start a website anytime soon. But it could happen in the future if his kids want to take over and grow the business.

"I wouldn't say never," says Love.

Some owners simply say they have no time.

Bill Peatman, who writes blog posts, emails and other content for websites for his corporate clients, doesn't have one for his own business.

"I've just been too busy," says Peatman, who started his Napa, California, business over a year ago. "I haven't come up with a plan with what I want to do."

He knows he needs one. "People don't think you exist," he says. "I want to grow. I want to build my own reputation and brand."

He recently bought a domain name. And he plans to hire someone to build the site, but he thinks it will take him a few more months to get to it.

"At the way I move," says Peatman, "about six



Cyndi Grasman, of Bad Pickle Tees, poses for a picture with her quirky food-related T-shirts at her home on Monday, June 2, 2014 in Valley Center, Calif.

Associated Press

months."

Fifty-five percent of small businesses don't have a website, according to a 2013 survey of more than 3,800 small businesses conducted by Internet search company Google and research company Ipsos. That's a slight improvement from the year before, when 58 percent said they didn't have a website.

Small business owners who want to start a website have lots of options that make it easier than in the past. Companies such as Wix.com, Google, SquareSpace.com and Weebly.com require no coding or technical skills. Users can choose a template, drag in photos and paste in words. And with more people searching for businesses online and on their smartphones, companies without a site may be missing out on extra business.

"You might as well be a ghost," says Blasingame, who hosts "The Small Business Advocate," an online and nationally syndicated radio show. "The customers and opportunity pass right through you."

Sales at Bad Pickle Tees have doubled since Cyndi

Grasman began selling her quirky food-related T-shirts online a year ago. She started the business in 2012, selling shirts with sayings like "Oh Kale Yeah!" and "I Heart Bacon" at food festivals. She launched the site using website publishing company Weebly, paying \$250 a year.

"I'm reaching a larger audience," she says.

Marilyn Caskey says her website has cut down on time-consuming phone calls with customers. The owner of The Garment Exchange launched a website for her San Antonio consignment shop two years ago using a Google program. The store, which she opened in 2008, used to get calls all the time asking which clothing designers the shop resells.

"I'll be trying to ring up a sale and someone would call," says Caskey, who would read through a list to the caller of all the designers the store does and doesn't buy. "Now we refer them to the website."

Amy Gilson hopes to be able to do that soon.

She hired a company to build a website for her Oklahoma City snack food

business Healthy Cravings. She is paying \$4,500 for it, but she hasn't been able to find the time to take photos and give them other information needed to finish. All customers see on EatHealthyCravings.com is a message that the site is coming soon.

"Right now, I do everything," says Gilson. "I am the accountant, the marketer, the salesman."

When she sells Healthy Cravings' zucchini brownie bites or chia cookies at farmers' markets, shoppers ask about a website. One customer, who was looking for the fat content of the snacks, took to Healthy Cravings' Facebook page to ask if it had a website with more information.

"I can't wait for my website," says Gilson, who also plans to sell treats from the site. "I can just send them there."



Instagram vamps up photo editing tools

NEW YORK (AP) - The photo sharing app Instagram is adding editing tools that go beyond the vintage-looking filters that made it popular.

The Facebook-owned app said in a blog post Tuesday that users will be able to adjust the brightness, contrast, saturation and other features of photos they take with their smartphones.

The tools are available after downloading the newest version of Instagram, 6.0, on Android or Apple phones. The photo editing tools will appear under a wrench icon. Instagram's filters can enhance photos or add a certain hue to them, to make them look like they were taken with a Polaroid camera in the 1970s. But as smartphone cameras have improved, many users have become more sophisticated about their snapshots. Some have turned to other apps with more powerful editing tools to fix photos before posting them on Instagram.

Instagram has more than 200 million users. It was founded in 2010 and acquired by Facebook in 2012.

Wall Street edges higher; Protective Life soars

KEN SWEET

AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks rose modestly Wednesday, erasing an early decline, as investors waited to hear from the European Central Bank on Thursday.

Insurer Protective Life soared on news that it was being acquired by a Japa-

at record highs on Monday. The Nasdaq got a boost from Apple, its biggest component, which gained \$7.28, or 1.1 percent, to \$644.82. Apple's seven-for-one stock split will happen after the close of business Friday. At the current price, Apple's new shares would be worth \$92.12 after the

Thursday to decide whether or not to lower the eurozone's key interest rate to below zero in an effort to further stimulate Europe's economy.

The unusual move would mean banks would have to pay to park money with the European Central Bank. The goal is to push banks to

strategist at Nuveen Investments. "The question is: Will the ECB do enough to satisfy investors?"

Speculation over the ECB's interest rate decision has sent foreign buyers into the U.S. bond market in recent weeks.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury note was little changed at 2.60 percent. It went as low as 2.44 percent last week, the lowest level in almost a year.

Investors also waiting for the monthly jobs report from the U.S. Labor Department, out Friday.

Economists believe U.S. employers added 220,000 jobs in May and the unemployment rate remained steady at 6.3 percent.

Payroll processor ADP said Wednesday that U.S. businesses slowed their hiring last month, adding just 179,000 workers to their payrolls. It was the weakest hiring in four months and well below what economists had expected.

"Just when investors were getting comfortable with the positive data trend, the U.S. economy hands them a monkey wrench," said Doug Cote, chief market strategist for Voya Investment Management, in a note to investors.

In company news:

— Protective Life jumped \$10.64, or 18 percent, to \$69.36 after Japanese insurance company Dai-ichi Life said it would buy the company for \$70 a share, or \$5.7 billion.

— First Solar rose \$2.46 or 4 percent, to \$65.39 after the company announced it was buying German electric power operator Skytron Energy for an undisclosed amount.

US companies in May added 179,000 jobs

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. businesses pulled back on hiring in May, adding the fewest jobs in four months, a private survey showed.

Payroll processor ADP said Wednesday that private employers added 179,000 jobs last month, down from 215,000 in the previous month. April's figure was revised slightly lower. Still, the gain in May was in line with the ADP's average monthly hiring figures for the past 12 months.

The data suggest that the government's jobs report, to be released Friday, could also show a modest slowdown from April's big gain of 288,000 jobs. But the ADP numbers cover only private businesses and often diverge from the government's more comprehensive report.

Economists forecast that the government's figures will show that employers added 220,000 jobs in May, according to a survey by FactSet. Analysts generally didn't change their estimates in response to the ADP report.

Hiring appears to be holding steady even though the economy shrank in the first three months of the year at a 1 percent annual rate, the first contraction in three years. Most of the slowdown has been blamed on unseasonably cold weather, which shut factories, disrupted shipping, and kept shoppers away from stores and malls.

"The labor market remains strong and the economy is still recovering from the weather-induced hit in the first quarter," Paul Dales, senior U.S. economist at Capital Economics, said in a note to clients.

The slowdown in the ADP figures occurred mostly in professional and business services, a category that includes many higher-paying jobs such as accountants and engineers, but also lower-paid temporary workers.



Trader Sal Suarino, left, works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Stocks rose modestly Wednesday, erasing an early decline, as investors waited to hear from the European Central Bank on Thursday.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

nese company.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 15.19 points, or 0.1 percent, to 16,737.53. The Standard & Poor's 500 index added 3.64, or 0.2 percent, to 1,927.88 and the Nasdaq composite rose 17.56 points, or 0.4 percent, to 4,251.64.

The S&P 500 closed at another record high, while the Dow closed less than 10 points from its previous high. Both indexes closed

split takes effect on Monday.

Once again trading was quiet, with roughly 2.8 billion shares changing hands on the New York Stock Exchange, compared with the recent average of 3.3 billion shares. Volume has been under 3 billion shares every day this week.

This week's main events come Thursday and Friday. Policymakers from Europe's central bank will meet

lend the money to companies and individual borrowers.

While the eurozone pulled out of an 18-month recession last year, growth remains sluggish and inflation is low. Eurozone inflation was 0.7 percent in May, well below ECB's target of 2 percent.

"Europe is barely growing, inflation is low, and it cries out for more stimulus," said Bob Doll, chief equity

Barclays, Goldman, Merrill fined \$1 million each

NEW YORK (AP) — The Financial Industry Regulatory Authority said Wednesday that it fined investment banks Barclays, Goldman Sachs and Merrill Lynch \$1 million each for providing incomplete and inaccurate information about trades the companies conducted.

Finra said that the trading information is required to be submitted upon request but it said the data was missing, had incorrect customer names and contact information or inaccurate details about the transactions.

Regulators use the trading data, known as "blue

sheets," to investigate potential insider trading or other manipulations of the market. The Wall Street regulator said that Barclays PLC, The Goldman Sachs Group Inc. and Merrill Lynch neither admitted nor denied the charges by settling the cases. Barclays, Goldman Sachs

and Merrill Lynch, which is a unit of Bank of America Corp., declined to comment.

Finra also issued a complaint against Wedbush Securities for the same reasons, but said that the case hasn't been decided yet. Wedbush didn't respond to a request for comment.

Report:**Insurer UnitedHealth raises quarterly dividends by 34%**

TOM MURPHY
AP Business Writer

UnitedHealth is once again hiking the quarterly dividend it gives shareholders by more than 30 percent, with the latest increase tripling the initial value of a payout the nation's largest health insurer debuted in 2010.

The insurer said Wednesday it will pay a cash dividend of 37.5 cents per share on June 25 to stockholders of record as of June 16. That's up nearly 10 cents from the Minnetonka, Minnesota, company's current payout of 28 cents per share.

UnitedHealth Group Inc. became the first health insurer to offer more than a token payout to shareholders in 2010 when it started providing a quarterly dividend of 12.5 cents per share. The insurer has since increased that dividend 30 percent or more each year, as its stock price grew steadily. The new dividend bumps the yield up to 1.9 percent from about 1.4 percent, based on the stock's Tuesday closing price. The dividend yield is calculated by dividing the annual dividend by the company's stock price.

That new yield matches the average for Standard & Poor's 500 index companies.

A total of 209 companies in the S&P 500 have raised their dividend so far this year, according to Howard Silverblatt, senior index analyst for S&P Dow Jones Indices. They've hiked their payouts 15 percent on average, not counting those that have doubled.

Companies often look to spend the cash they pile up from strong performances on shareholder dividends or stock buybacks. If their share price grows, they can face shareholder pressure to raise the payout and avoid diluting the yield.

UnitedHealth's stock has climbed 28 percent since June 4, 2013, the day before its last dividend increase.

Investors have turned more to health insurance stocks in recent years as the health care overhaul has unfolded and uncertainty about the law's effect on that sector has dissipated. Investors also like UnitedHealth for the company's business diversity, as well as its growing quarterly payout.

Health insurance is the company's largest business, but it also operates segments that sell information technology services and pharmacy benefits management. UnitedHealth also is the largest provider of Medicare Advantage plans, which are privately run versions of the government's Medicare program for the elderly and disabled people.

UnitedHealth also said Wednesday that it renewed the company's share buyback program, by authorizing the purchase of 100 million shares over time. That can add to the value of company shares by taking more of them out of play.

Citi analyst Carl McDonald had predicted earlier this week that UnitedHealth would announce a sizeable dividend hike.

While UnitedHealth's share price has grown over the past few years, McDonald noted that the stock has underperformed competitors like Aetna Inc. and the Blue Cross Blue Shield insurer WellPoint Inc. so far in 2014. He said in a research note that UnitedHealth "could use a positive catalyst."

The insurer said in April that government budget cuts and costs imposed by the health care overhaul dented its performance and contributed to an 8 percent drop in first-quarter earnings. Still, it earned \$1.1 billion on \$31.71 billion in revenue. □

US service firms grow at modest pace

JOSH BOAK
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. service firms grew more quickly last month as production, hiring and new orders increased, adding to signs that the economy is accelerating after dipping at the start of the year.

The Institute for Supply Management said Wednesday that its service-sector index rose to 56.3 in May, the best reading since August 2013. The figure is an improvement from the 55.2 posted in April. Any figure above 50 indicates expansion. The report points to solid growth after a brutal winter caused the economy to shrink 1 percent during the January-March quarter. The gains in new orders and the backlog of existing orders

suggest a faster rate of hiring in the months ahead as businesses rush to meet the demand. "With this level of activity and new orders in the pipeline, employment is going to have to come up," said Anthony Nieves, chairman of the ISM's services survey committee. "There is no way that companies will be able to sustain a good level of output if they don't have the bodies to do it."

The services survey covers businesses that employ 90 percent of the workforce, including retail, construction, health care and financial services firms. The ISM is a trade group of purchasing managers.

New orders rose for the fifth consecutive month, up 2.3 points to 60.5 and the high-

est reading since January 2011. The production component also climbed to 62.1, its strongest level since December 2010. Of the 18 industries surveyed in the report, only the mining sector contracted last month.

Several other economic reports indicate that the economy is gaining momentum. The ISM's separate survey of manufacturers on Monday rose to 55.4 in May. Both production and orders notched solid gains.

Auto sales improved in May as well. On Tuesday, Chrysler, General Motors, Nissan and Toyota all reported double-digit sales gains year-over-year. Ford's sales rose a better-than-expected 3 percent, while Hyundai's were up 4 percent. □



A construction worker works on the site of the SoMa at Brickell apartment building in downtown Miami. The Institute for Supply Management, a trade group of purchasing managers, issued its index of non-manufacturing activity for May on Wednesday, June 4, 2014.

(AP Photo/Lynne Sladky)

Pemex: no loss on Repsol shares

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexico's state-owned Pemex oil company said Wednesday it made some financial profit on its aborted alliance with Repsol, after selling a 7.86-percent stake in the Spanish company for about the price it paid for it three years ago.

Pemex director Emilio Lozoya said Pemex sold off almost all of its holdings in Repsol at an average price of 20.10 euros (\$27.54). That's just 0.75 percent above the 19.95 euro price that Pemex paid

in 2011. Pemex said it made profits from financing and swaps of about \$900 million. Pemex officials say the remaining stake, estimated at about 1 percent, will be sold when market conditions are right.

Pemex said it had been seeking strategic and financial returns on the investment, but Repsol had shown "a lack of interest."

Lozoya said Pemex "will continue to be open to forming alliances on the global level, if they are profitable and in-

volve technological, financial and human resources benefits." He said Pemex uses the proceeds from the sale to invest in its portfolio of exploration, transport and industrial projects, but noted the amount is equivalent to a relatively small percentage of average annual investments. The proceeds from the sale were estimated at about \$2.2 billion euros (\$3 billion). Pemex has criticized Repsol's management for what it calls the company's poor performance. □

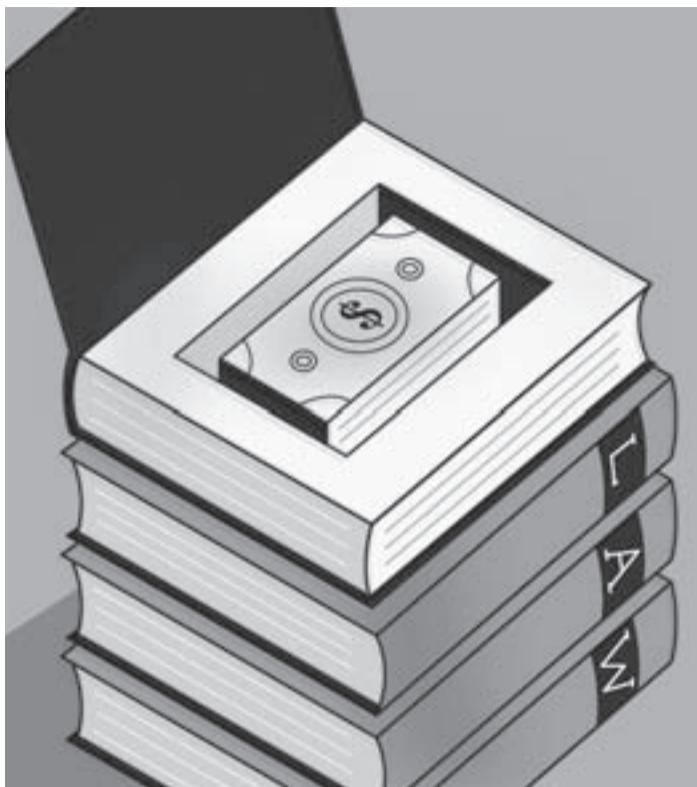
Sale of Law School Raises Debate Over Who Should Profit

STEVEN M. DAVIDOFF

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The notion of legal education is colliding with the profit motive in Charleston, South Carolina, where "for profit" and "private equity" are being tossed around as dirty words in the fight against the acquisition of a regional law school.

The battle centers on the proposed acquisition of the Charleston Law School by the InfiLaw System, which runs three for-profit law schools and is owned by the private equity firm Sterling Partners. Opponents are skeptical of InfiLaw's for-profit business model. The irony is that the law school's current owners have taken out more than \$25 million in profits over the last few years without protest. It all may just boil down to snobbery and



InfiLaw System is proposing to buy Charleston Law School, but opponents are skeptical of the company's for-profit business model.

(Harry Campbell/The New York Times)

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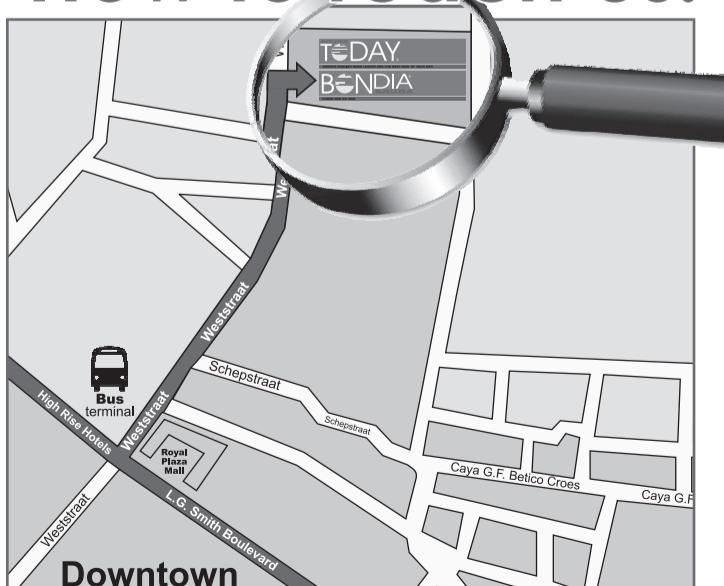


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ket and the cries of some that law school in general is a sham. Total applications at law schools have declined 40 percent over the last few years, and enrollment at Charleston declined 24.2 percent from 2011 to 2013.

Enter the InfiLaw System. There are six for-profit law schools in the country, and InfiLaw owns three of them: Arizona Summit Law School, Charlotte School of Law and Florida Coastal School of Law.

Last year, InfiLaw agreed to buy Charleston from its founders and take over its management. Law is a regulated business, so the purchase would need approvals from the ABA and the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education.

It was at this point that the uproar erupted. Alumni and students complained, with one article describing the legal community as "highly skeptical." A majority of Charleston's faculty also came out against the acquisition, saying that a sense of community had been replaced by a culture of "intimidation and fear." □

who should be allowed to attend law school.

Five prominent local judges and lawyers started Charleston Law School in 2002, and it was intended to turn a profit for them from the start. The American Bar Association has accredited 203 law schools, and not all of them can be Harvard. Charleston is unranked by U.S. News and World Report, meaning it falls in the lowest tier of the schools it rates. But Charleston's founders never intended it to be Harvard. Instead, they wanted to give the state a second law school in addition to the one at the University of South Carolina to feed graduates into local lawyers' jobs. Like the majority of law schools that are not national research institutions, Charleston is regional and more focused on training. These schools depend on local ties and employment trends to succeed.

Charleston Law School has performed fairly well and even prospered for the owners as the founders' ties to Charleston and South Carolina aided the students. Enrollment grew to more than 700.

But the school is now struggling to attract students in the face of a general decline in the legal job mar-

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U.S. hottest spots of warming: Northeast, Southwest

SETH BORENSTEIN
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States is warming fastest at two of its corners, in the Northeast and the Southwest, an analysis of federal temperature records shows.

Northeastern states — led by Maine and Vermont — have gotten the hottest in the last 30 years in annual temperature, gaining 2.5 degrees Fahrenheit (1.4 degrees Celsius) on average. But Southwestern states have heated up the most in the hottest months: The average New Mexico summer is 3.4 degrees Fahrenheit (1.8 degrees Celsius) warmer now than in 1984; in Texas, the summer days are 2.8 degrees Fahrenheit (1.5 degrees Celsius) hotter.

The contiguous United States' annual average temperature has warmed by 1.2 degrees Fahrenheit (0.7 degrees Celsius) since 1984. But that doesn't really tell you how hot it's gotten for most Americans. While man-made greenhouse gases warm the world as a whole, weather is supremely local. Some areas have gotten hotter than others because of atmospheric factors and randomness, climate scientists say.

"In the United States, it isn't warming equally," said Kelly Redmond, climatologist at the Western Regional Climate Center in

Reno, Nevada. "Be careful about extrapolating from your own backyard to the globe."

For example, while people in the East and Midwest were complaining about a cold winter this year, Redmond's Nevada and neighboring California were having some of their warmest winter months ever.

To determine what parts of the country have warmed the most, The Associated Press analyzed National Climatic Data Center temperature trends in the lower 48 states, 192 cities and 344 smaller regions within the states. Climate scientists suggested 1984 as a starting date because 30 years is a commonly used time period and 1984, which had an average temperature, is not a cherry-picked year to skew a trend either way. The trend was calculated by the NCDC using the least squares regression method, which is a standard statistical tool.

All but one of the lower 48 states have warmed since 1984. North Dakota is the lone outlier, and cooled slightly.

Since 1984, 92 percent of the more than 500 cities and smaller regions within states have warmed and nearly two-thirds of them have warmed by at least a degree.

The Southwest warming,



In this June 29, 2013 file photo, four-year-old Hayden Slykhuis cools off in the flow of a fountain at the Red Ridge Park kids water park in Las Vegas. An Associated Press analysis of federal temperature records shows Nevada's capital city, Carson City, has warmed the most in the last 30 years than any other city in the nation.

Associated Press

especially in the summer, seems to be driven by dryness, because when there is little water the air and ground warm up faster, said Katharine Hayhoe, a climate scientist at Texas Tech University in Lubbock. And in the Northeast, the temperatures are pushed up by milder winters and warm water in the North

Atlantic, said Kevin Trenberth, climate analysis chief at the National Center for Atmospheric Research. And less snow on the ground over the winter often means warmer temperatures, said Alan Betts, a climate scientist at Atmospheric Research in Pittsford, Vermont. The Southeast and North-

west were among the places that warmed the least. In the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic, industrial sulfur particle pollutants from coal burning may be reflecting sunlight, thus countering heating caused by coal's carbon dioxide emissions, said Pennsylvania State University professor Michael Mann.

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A few 'inmates' from 'Orange' discuss prison life

FRAZIER MOORE
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — An upper-middle class blonde from Brooklyn goes to jail for a drug-related screw-up years before.

The women's federal prison on of "Orange Is the New Black" is a different world than Piper Chapman had known, populated with a wildly varied group of characters played (alongside series star Taylor Schilling) by TV's most diverse cast of actors.

As this Netflix series shot its second season last fall on its Queens, New York, soundstage, a visit to the all-too-gritty-looking prison set found several of these actresses delighted to be serving time on this groundbreaking drama (whose 13 new episodes are available for streaming Friday on the Netflix website):

— TV veteran Kate Mulgrew ("Star Trek: Voyager," "Warehouse 13") plays "Red" Reznikov, a tough-as-nails inmate who was once part of New York's Russian mob and now runs the prison kitchen.

"The hardest part of the show was finding my character before they said 'Action!' the first day," she says. "You have to be able to show her toughness and, through her toughness, her heart — and you had to show it from the first shot." She did. Ever since, it's been a blast for Mulgrew. "This is not a vanity role," she acknowledges. "But I'm of an age now (59) where none of that is as important as it once was. To find a role this rich, nuanced and specific is absolutely joyful for me. It's liberating."

— "Taystee" Jefferson is Danielle Brooks' first big role after graduating from the Juilliard School. Hers is not a vanity role, either.

"There are times when I'm like, 'Can we please do my eyebrows? Can I get a little more foundation?'" says Brooks with a laugh. "But I truly enjoy the freedom of coming to work, not having to wear Spanx or extensions, to just be me. You

can't hide behind anything here. It's really freeing." She wants her audience to identify with Taystee, no matter how unrelated her character might seem at first.

"We all cry, we all bleed, we all hurt," Brooks declares. "I want everyone to see Taystee, who they feel so far away from, and realize: 'I've felt like her before.'"

— Growing up in Washington, D.C., Samira Wiley, who plays Taystee's friend, the jester Poussey Washington, knew from childhood she wanted to be an actress.

"But I couldn't necessarily see where I might fit in," she says. It was clear there weren't a lot of black women snagging great roles on TV. "But there's something in you so strong you can't suppress it: 'I want to do this. This makes me happy.' "Now, everything that's happening for me with this show is more than I could have dreamed of," she says. "It's nice to be part of that surprise."

— Uzo Aduba didn't get the "Orange" role she auditioned for. Then she learned she had been cast as the unstable, sometimes feral "Crazy Eyes" Warren. "That was exciting. But at the same time I'm wondering: What was it about my audition that made them think, 'She'd make a great Crazy Eyes'?"

After all, this is a character, says Aduba, "who has an innocence about her like a child — except children aren't SCARY! But when I tried her on, it felt like the right part for me. I felt right at home."

— Lorraine Toussaint, whose credits include "Saving Grace" and "Friday Night Lights," claims to have "fallen in love" with the character she plays, "Vee" Parker, a charismatic former drug dealer who used kids as her mules.

"It's an interesting love affair," she allows. "I get to dance with my shadow self. I get to sit in the back-seat watching Vee drive the car, and she drives fast and dangerously. I get to



This image released by Netflix shows Lea DeLaria, left, and Natasha Lyonne in a scene from "Orange is the New Black." The second season of the prison series will be available on Friday, June 6, on Netflix. Associated Press

be surprised by who she is and what she does, because I'm seeing her from the inside out.

"I think it's more uncomfor-

able for the people around me," she adds. "I find myself apologizing to other people on the set when I'm in my prison garb."

Toussaint, who is joining "Orange" with Season 2, admits she didn't know the show when the role came along.

Nathan Lane, Matthew Broderick to reunite on B'way

MARK KENNEDY

AP Drama Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Nathan Lane and Matthew Broderick will be back together again on Broadway in a revival of Terrence McNally's "It's Only a Play."

The ensemble also will include Tony Award winner Stockard Channing, Oscar winner F. Murray Abraham and Emmy winner Megan Mullally. Jack O'Brien will direct.

The revival will play the Gerald Schoenfeld Theatre and opening night is set for Oct. 9.

Lane and Broderick last appeared together on Broadway in "The Odd Couple" and famously before that in "The Producers."

Lane most recently starred in Douglas Carter Beane's "The Nance," for which he received a 2013 Best Actor Tony nomination. Broderick last appeared on Broadway in "Nice Work If You Can Get It."



This Dec. 12, 2005 file photo shows Nathan Lane, left, and Matthew Broderick, stars of "The Producers," arrive together at the world premiere of the film in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

"It's Only a Play," which previously appeared off-Broadway in 1986, is a send-up of show business. It is set on the eve of a play's

opening night and its anxious playwright has to deal with Broadway show business types as they await the first reviews.



In this Jan. 12, 2013 file photo, "60 Minutes" reporter Lara Logan takes part in a panel discussion at the Showtime Winter TCA Tour in Pasadena, Calif.

Associated Press

CBS News' Lara Logan back at work

DAVID BAUDER

AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — CBS News' Lara Logan is back to work at "60 Minutes" more than six months after being ordered to take a leave of absence for her role in a disputed story on the deadly 2012 raid at the U.S. mission in Benghazi, Libya.

CBS News spokeswoman Sonya McNair said Wednesday that Logan has returned. She had no details on when the correspondent resumed work and what type of stories she is working on. Logan did not immediately return a telephone message for comment.

Her October report on the CBS newsmagazine was quickly criticized and became the subject of an internal CBS investigation. The story relied on the testimony by Dylan Davies, a security contractor who said he was at the scene of the raid that since then has become a key Republican criticism of the Obama administration. But his story fell apart and it turned out there was no evidence he was there, and CBS issued a correction.

The internal CBS review of the incident concluded Logan and her "60 Minutes"

colleagues should have done a better job checking out Davies' story before it went on the air.

The internal review also said that a speech Logan made in urging the U.S. to take action in response to the Benghazi raid represented a conflict of interest for a reporter later doing a story on the incident. She was ordered to take the leave of absence in late November 2013. The liberal watchdog Media Matters for America, a sharp critic of the Benghazi report from the beginning, had harsh words for CBS News for bringing Logan back.

"CBS indicated that they were serious about rebuilding its brand and taking accountability," said David Brock, Media Matters founder. "Having Logan back on '60 Minutes' shows the exact opposite."

There was some question whether Logan would return to "60 Minutes," although CBS never deviated from the story that she was on a leave of absence. "60 Minutes" is heading into its summer vacation season and will be dominated by reruns in the summer months, so it's not likely a Logan story will be on the air soon. □

Imagine all the artwork: Lennon trove auctioned



This undated photo provided by Sotheby's shows an untitled ink drawing by John Lennon of a guitar player. It is part of an 89-piece collection of Lennon's original whimsical drawings, poems and prose for his books "In His Own Write" and "A Spaniard in the Works" that will be auctioned by Sotheby's in New York on Wednesday, June 4, 2014.

Associated Press

ULA ILNYTZKY

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Whimsical drawings, poems and short stories from two humorous books John Lennon produced in the 1960s fetched skyrocketing prices at auction Wednesday, including \$209,000 for a nine-page parody of Sherlock Holmes.

The manuscript, "The Singulare Experience of Miss Anne Duffield," was the top lot in the sale and had been estimated to bring \$50,000 to \$70,000.

The material was created for the two critically acclaimed books Lennon published during the height of Beatlemania. Sotheby's said 100 percent of the 89

lots sold, with 83 percent selling above the pre-sale high estimate.

"In his Own Write" was a collection of 31 short stories and poems full of puns and spelling errors that was published in 1964. It was a big hit with reviewers who compared Lennon to Lewis Carroll and Edward Lear. It was followed a year later by "A Spaniard in the Works," its title a pun on the British term "a spanner in the works," similar to the American expression "a monkey wrench in the works."

The collection belonged to Lennon's British publisher, Tom Maschler, who held on to it for a half-century. Sotheby's described it as

the largest private collection of Lennon's work to come to the market. Before becoming famous as a musician, Lennon, who was fatally shot in 1980, trained as an artist at the Liverpool School of Art.

A cartoon of a boy with six birds that appeared in "A Spaniard in the Works" sold for \$27,500 on Wednesday. The drawing was used 30 years later as the cover for the Beatles' single "Free as a Bird."

The song was written by Lennon in 1977. Twenty-five years after the group's breakup and 15 years after Lennon's death, it was released with additional instrumentation and vocals from the other three band members in 1995. The cartoon had a pre-sale estimate of \$12,000 to \$15,000.

"The Fat Budgie," a beloved nonsensical poem with the title written on the margin, sold for \$143,000, well past its \$35,000 pre-sale estimate.

A handwritten manuscript called "I Sat Belonely" went for \$137,000, surpassing its pre-sale estimate of up to \$35,000. A corrected typescript titled "Neville Club" sold for \$10,000, which was within its presale estimate of \$8,000 to \$12,000.

Maschler called Lennon a man of "extraordinary talent and imagination." □



Author Eimear McBride who wrote the novel *A Girl is a Half-Formed Thing*, holds the trophy on stage after winning The Baileys Women's Prize for Fiction at an awards ceremony at the Royal Festival Hall in London, Wednesday, June 4, 2014.

Associated Press

Eimear McBride wins Women's Prize for Fiction

LONDON (AP) — British-Irish writer Eimear McBride has won this year's Women's Prize for Fiction with her debut novel "A Girl is a Half-formed Thing."

McBride's novel, about a young, troubled Irish girl and her relationship with her brother, was up against five other books competing for the 30,000-pound (\$50,000) prize.

Chair of judges Helen Fraser praised McBride as an "extraordinary new voice." The other finalists were Donna Tartt's best-seller "The

Goldfinch," Jhumpa Lahiri's Indian-American saga "The Lowland," Nigerian writer Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's "Americanah," Hannah Kent's murder mystery "Burial Rites,"

and Audrey Magee's World War II story "The Undertaking."

The annual award, formally called the Baileys Women's Prize after its sponsor, is open to female writers in English from around the world. It was previously known as the Orange Prize. □

Prisoners of Sex



ROSS DOUTHAT

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In an ideal world, perhaps, the testimony left by the young man who killed six people in Santa Barbara would have perished with its author: the video files somehow wiped off the Internet, his manifesto deleted and any printed copy pulped.

Spree killers seek the immortality of infamy, and their imitators are inspired by how easily they win it. As Ari Schulman argued last year in *The Wall Street Journal*, there would probably be fewer copycat rampages if the typical killer's face and name didn't lead the news coverage, if fewer details of biography and motive circulated, if a mass murderer's "ability to make his internal psychodrama a shared public reality" were more strictly circumscribed.

But this is not an ideal world, and so instead of media restraint we've had a splendid little culture war over the significance of the Santa Barbara killer's distinctive stew of lust, misogyny and rage. Twitter movements have been created, think pieces written, and all kinds of cultural phenomena - from Judd Apatow movies to "pickup artists" and Rhonda Byrne's "The Secret" - have been invoked, analyzed and blamed.

And in fairness to the think pieces - I have to be fair, because I'm writing one - in this particular tragedy, the killer's motives really do seem to have a larger cultural significance.

Often you step into the mental landscape of a mass murderer and find nothing but paranoia, nightmare logic, snakes eating their own tails. But compared with the mysteries of Tucson, Newtown and Aurora, this case has an internal psychodrama that is much more recognizable, a murderous logic that's a little more familiar. The Santa Barbara killer's pulsing antipathy toward women, his shame and fury over sexual inexperience - these were amplified horribly by mental illness, yes, but visit the angrier corners of the Internet, wander in comment threads and chat rooms, and you'll recognize them as extreme versions of an all-too-commonplace misogyny. I've written before, in the context of the abuse that female writers take online, about this poisoned stream's potential origins. The Santa Barbara case hints at one such source - the tension between our culture's official attitude toward sex on the one hand and our actual patterns of

sexual and romantic life on the other.

The culture's attitude is Hefnerism, basically, if less baldly chauvinistic than the original Playboy philosophy. Sexual fulfillment is treated as the source and summit of a life well lived, the thing without which nobody (from a carefree college student to a Cialis-taking senior) can be truly happy, enviable or free.

Meanwhile, social alternatives to sexual partnerships are disfavored or in decline: Virginity is for weirdos and losers, celibate life is either a form of unhealthy repression or a smoke screen for deviancy, the kind of intense friendships celebrated by past civilizations are associated with closeted homosexuality, and the steady shrinking of extended families has reduced many people's access to the familial forms of platonic intimacy.

Yet as sex looms ever larger as an aspirational good, we also live in a society where more people are single and likely to remain so than in any previous era. And since single people have, on average, a lot less sex than the partnered and wedded, a growing number of Americans are statistically guaranteed to feel that they're not living up to the culture's standard of fulfillment, happiness and worth.

This tension between sexual expectations and social reality is a potential problem for both sexes, but for a variety of reasons - social, cultural and biological - it's more likely to produce toxic reactions in the male of the species. Such toxicity need not lead to murder (as it usually, mercifully, does not) to be a source of widespread misery, both for the men who wallow in it and the women unfortunate enough to be targets for their bile.

Contemporary feminism is very good - better than my fellow conservatives often acknowledge - at critiquing these pathologies. But feminism, too, is often a prisoner of Hefnerism, in the sense that it tends to prescribe more and more "sex positivity," insisting that the only problem with contemporary sexual culture is that it's imperfectly egalitarian, insufficiently celebratory of female agency and desire.

This means that the feminist prescription doesn't supply what men slipping down into the darkness of misogyny most immediately need: not lectures on how they need to respect women as sexual beings, but reasons, despite their lack of sexual experience, to first respect themselves as men. Such reasons, and the models of intimacy and community that vindicate them, might have done little to prevent the Santa Barbara killer's deadly spree. But they might drain some of the swamps that are forming, slowly, because our society has lost sight of a basic human truth: A culture that too tightly binds sex and self-respect is likely, in the long run, to end up with less and less of both. □



Yes, All Men Campaign



CHARLES M. BLOW

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As I drove my son back to college last week, where he'll take a summer chemistry course, he said something that struck me: "I believe it's very important for everyone to be a feminist."

He didn't say it for effect, to shock or provoke conversation. It was just one of those thoughts that surface on a road trip, a kind of sorting out of life by a son before his father.

He explained that he had never truly been aware of the extent of his own male privilege until recently, and that after watching the #YesAllWomen campaign unfold and doing quite a bit of reading, he had begun to chafe at the subconscious - and sometimes overt - gender inequity that pervades our society and the world.

It wasn't fair, he insisted. Not to the millions of women he didn't know and had never met, nor to his girlfriend, friends who are girls or his own sister.

I couldn't have been more proud of his most principled stance.

Yes, we should all be feminists, but too often we believe that the plight of the oppressed is solely the business of the oppressed, and that the society in which that oppression is born

and grows and the role of the oppressors and beneficiaries are all somehow subordinate. Wrong.

Fighting female objectification and discrimination and violence against women isn't simply the job of women; it must also be the pursuit of men.

Only when men learn to recognize misogyny will we be able to rid the world of it. Not all men are part of the problem, but, yes, all men must be part of the solution. The statistics on violence and discrimination against women are just staggering. The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women has reported that:

- According to a 2013 global review of available data, 35 percent of women worldwide have experienced intimate-partner violence or non-partner sexual violence. However, some national violence studies show that up to 70 percent of women have at some point experienced violence from an intimate partner.

- In Australia, Canada, Israel, South Africa and the United States, violence by intimate partners accounts for between 40 percent and 70 percent of all murders of women.

- More than 64 million girls worldwide are child brides; 46 percent of women ages 20 to 24 in South Asia and 41 percent in West and Central Africa report that they married before the age of 18.

- Approximately 140 million girls and women in the world have suffered female genital mutilation/cutting.

- In the United States, 83 percent of girls 12 to 16 have experienced some form of sexual harassment in public schools.

- Women are already two to four times more likely than men to be

come infected with HIV during intercourse. Rape increases the risks because of limited condom use and physical injuries.

- In the United States, 11.8 percent of new HIV infections in the previous year among women 20 or older were attributed to intimate-partner violence.

And that is only a sampling of the points made by the U.N. about the devastating scale of the problem. It doesn't even take into account more subtle, but still corrosive, issues like job and pay discrimination, imbalances in parental roles and responsibilities, sexual double standards and the imbalance of political power.

Many of these issues are particularly acute right here in the United States. As CNN reported last year: "The U.S. has a larger gender gap than 22 other countries including Germany, Ireland, Nicaragua and Cuba, according to a World Economic Forum report ... [that] rates 136 countries on gender equality, and factors in four categories: economic opportunity, educational attainment, health and political empowerment."

Men around the world, in general, do not have to worry as much, if at all, about being the subjects of such physical and psychological violence. They have the luxury of not being forced to fully engage and confront the scale and scope of the problem - and that is the very definition of privilege. But we can fix that.

Empathy is not particularly elusive. It only requires an earnest quest to understand and act on that understanding. The problems women face in this world require the engagement of all the world's people.

"It's very important for everyone to be a feminist."

#YesAllMen □

Will That Be a 6-Bedroom Suite or Just a Couch?

SCOTT MAYEROWITZ
CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER
AP Business Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — Private elevators, personal shopping assistants, six-bedroom suites with their own postal codes. Even helipads. This is what the super-rich have come to expect from hotels.

For others, vacation now means renting someone's apartment, a spare room, maybe just a couch — anything to save on the cost of a hotel.

As the gap between the wealthiest travelers and everyone else has widened, so has the way people are experiencing vacations. The wealthy are looking for ever-more pampering. Many others are seeking new ways to economize.

And the lodging industry is adapting — at the high and low ends — to meet the diverging needs.

Luxury hotels are catering to financial elites from Russia, China, Brazil or the Middle East who now routinely hop around the world and don't mind dropping \$20,000 a night for a glamorous accommodation.

"High-end travel in the air, on the sea and on land has never been more robust," says Steve Carvell, an associate dean at Cornell University's School of Hotel Administration. "There are

more people with more concentrated wealth."

Luxury hotels are arising even at iconic middle-American tourism spots such as Walt Disney World. Four Seasons will open a 444-room resort there in August with 68 suites, including a nine-bedroom royal suite sporting a 1,000 square-foot (93-square-meter) private terrace with views of the park's nightly fireworks.

During the Great Recession, many resorts dropped "resort and spa" from their name. The idea was to appeal to corporate organizers who didn't want trips to seem extravagant. Excess now appears back in style. In November, Four Seasons added the phrase "and residences" to its mountain resorts in Vail, Colorado; Jackson Hole, Wyoming; and Whistler, Canada. It's pursuing families seeking a residential experience with the pampering of a hotel staff. The six-bedroom suite in Vail fetches \$15,000 a night. You get three living rooms and a movie room. The suite includes a dedicated assistant who can arrange airport transfers, private ski lessons and after-hours shopping.

The return of extravagance reflects one characteristic of the recovery: After paring their vacations along



Butler Vido Kijne presents the guest welcoming pose in the Abu Dhabi Suite at the St. Regis in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. The nearly 24,000 square foot two-story suite, which sells for a nightly rate of \$21,500, has three bedrooms, a spa, a cinema, a bar area, two kitchens and a 360-degree panoramic view of the city, the islands, and the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque. The suite has 19 chandeliers made of Bohemian crystal, and an elevator that takes guests to ground level in total privacy, bypassing the rest of the hotel.

(AP Photo/Kamran Jebreili)

with everyone else during the recession, the wealthy have rebounded with force. Since 2009, hotel spending by the wealthiest 20 percent of Americans has risen about 6 percent, according to inflation-adjusted data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The middle 20 percent are still spending nearly 3 percent less. To stretch their discretionary dollars, middle-income vacationers are fueling one of the industry's growth areas: "limited service" lodgings. At Mar-

riott's Fairfield Inn, Hyatt Place and Holiday Inn Express, you get free Wi-Fi and breakfast. But there's no bellman, concierge or restaurants.

The idea is to draw travelers who feel priced out of full-service hotels. People can still say, "I'm staying at the Marriott," even if it's the Fairfield Inn, says Bjorn Hanson, dean of New York University's hospitality school.

But many people are seeking deeper savings through increasingly popular sites such as Airbnb that arrange for people to rent rooms or apartments. The number of listed accommodations has soared since Airbnb's founding in 2008 to 550,000 — not far below Hilton's 685,000 rooms worldwide. Some studies suggest that Airbnb could be cutting into budget hotels' revenue.

Robin Lynch, 34, of New York City put 14 relatives, including her in-laws, in five Airbnb facilities in Brooklyn for her wedding last year. She estimates she paid roughly \$200 a night, on average, compared with the \$300 she'd expected for a hotel.

"That amounts to a lot of savings over seven days," she says.

High unemployment and flat paychecks have

spurred more people not only to stay in Airbnb rooms but also to list their own homes.

Eric Worley, 30, and his girlfriend stayed at an Airbnb home in Columbus, Ohio, for \$59 a night — half the lowest hotel rate they could find.

"Not only am I saving money, I'm also helping out another person ... by giving them some extra money," he says. "I'd much rather do that than have a corporation overcharge me for what is essentially the same service."

Sometimes, the cut-rate experience goes further than visitors had expected. Ann Carman, 32, of Yellow Springs, Ohio, had always wanted to stay in an Airstream trailer. When she and her boyfriend visited Austin, Texas, in December 2013, she found one in a backyard. They weren't alone. Sharing their accommodations were a pig named Fern, two dogs and a rooster.

"I was like, 'They've got a pig in their backyard, we've got to stay there,'" she says.

Airbnb hosts can charge less than hotels because they typically don't pay accommodation taxes or meet safety or disability regulations. □



Airbnb guests Camille Smithwick and James Green from Manchester, U.K., pose for photos at an Airbnb property owned by ceramist Jonathan Entler in the Echo Park area of Los Angeles.

(AP Photo/Damian Dovarganes)